



PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JOHN HENRY JAMES DAY

WHEREAS, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors has committed to sharing an inclusive history of our County as a part of our Community Remembrance Project, which includes untold and unsavory stories that have been excluded from the dominant narrative; and

WHEREAS, after the Reconstruction era in the United States, the crime of lynching succeeded slavery as a means to uphold racism and white supremacy; and

WHEREAS, John Henry James was one of at least 84 people lynched during the period of 1877-1950 in Virginia, and most importantly, the national Equal Justice Initiative has determined and documented that it was in Albemarle County where Mr. James' body was shot dozens of times and his corpse left hanging in public for hours; and

WHEREAS, no one was ever punished for this injustice that occurred in Albemarle County on July 12, 1898, though it happened at the hands of over 150 unmasked white men in the presence of the county sheriff and police chief; and

WHEREAS, it is a new era in Albemarle County and the Board of Supervisors recognizes that a history of racial injustice must be acknowledged, recognized, and remembered for community healing and that July 12, 2024, marks the 126th anniversary of the lynching of Mr. John Henry James; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize this tragic anniversary and continue to declare July 12th, as John Henry James Day, initially established by the Board in 2021 to remember our shared community history and as a demonstration of our commitment never to forget or to repeat this tragedy.

Signed this 12th day of June 2024.

Jim H. Andrews, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors