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**A Resolution of the Sangamon County Board Calling on President Biden to Designate the
1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument**

WHEREAS, starting on August 14, 1908, a white mob targeted the Black community in Springfield, Illinois, which include the lynchings of two Black men and the destruction of Black-owned businesses and homes within blocks of the former home of Abraham Lincoln.

WHEREAS, the Springfield Race Riot generated widespread public outrage and led to Ida B. Wells to write "Lynching, Our National Crime" in 1909.

WHEREAS, the Springfield Race Riot led to the founding of the NAACP on February 12, 1909, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth.

WHEREAS, acknowledging and commemorating the role the Springfield Race Riot played in the County's and the nation's history is integral to healing, learning and advancing our community.

WHEREAS, local partners have been working for ten years to preserve the Springfield Race Riot site after its discovery in 2014, as part of the Springfield Rail Improvement Project.

WHEREAS, the County supports the National Park Service's findings that the Springfield Race Riot site meets NPS criteria to designate a new unit of the National Park System.

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield and the HSHS St. John's Hospital have pledged to donate land to the United States of America to establish a National Monument, as a new unit of the National Park System.

WHEREAS, these land donations contain the remains of burned structures and other objects of historic interest.

WHEREAS, to complement the Monument designation, the County supports the construction of a Memorial to honor the victims, survivors and descendants of the Springfield Race Riot.

WHEREAS, the Springfield Branch of the NAACP and community leaders support the establishment of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument.

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the bipartisan leadership of the Illinois Congressional delegation to ask President Biden to protect the site via a Presidential Proclamation as authorized by the Antiquities Act.

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WHEREAS, the County also supports the Illinois' Congressional delegation's bipartisan legislation pending in Congress that would authorize the National Park Service to establish the Monument.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County calls on President Biden to establish the 1908 Springfield Race Riot National Monument via a Presidential Proclamation authorized by the Antiquities Act to preserve objects of historic interest on this 11th day of June, 2024.

The County stands ready to assist the National Park Service, City of Springfield, Illinois Congressional Delegation, State of Illinois and local partners to leave a lasting legacy for current and future generations.

Chairman, Sangamon County Board

ATTEST:

County Clerk

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Andy Goleman
SANGAMON COUNTY AUDITOR