

RESOLUTION 16-1

WHEREAS, The Sangamon County Board expresses their profound and heartfelt sorrow for the loss of our fellow resident Sonya Massey whose life tragically ended on July 6th, 2024 because of the abhorrent actions of Sean Grayson; and,

WHEREAS, we reach out to the Massey family with a heavy heart, but in focused determination to see this senseless tragedy lead to an important and needed opportunity to energize our community and to open a meaningful, actionable dialog on community and equity and the delivery of vital services to citizens throughout Sangamon County; and,

WHEREAS, this resolution shall establish the “Massey Commission” which will be charged with establishing a path forward to best bring our community together and to address systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses, and community relations, with the goal of creating tangible, practical, and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize that the search for answers to this question will involve a larger inquiry into the equitable delivery of services to all members of our community and we welcome this inquiry; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the search for answers to this question will involve changes to our selection, training, support and review of personnel engaged in public safety, mental health, public health, education, training and we are receptive to these changes; and,

WHEREAS, we cast no aspersions on other units of local government, but ask that the commission recognize Sangamon County Government’s desire to improve and willingness to provide any information at its disposal to the commission; and,

WHEREAS, the chairman of the county board has selected well respected community leaders Dr. Jerry Kruse, Dean and Provost of the SIU School of Medicine; Pastor T. Ray McJunkins, pastor of Union Baptist Church; and Nina Harris, chair of the Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion to serve as the co-chairs of the Massey Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the Co-Chairs will select all other commission members or members of subcommittees as needed from a pool of applicants who submitted their interest on the county’s website by August 30, 2024.

WHEREAS, the commission will begin meeting in September and will finalize its mission values and working group subjects.

FILED

SEP 11 2024

Don J. Kruse
Sangamon County Clerk

WHEREAS, we charter the Massey Commission with the earnest expectation that the commission will provide some actionable recommendations within six months of its organization and complete its work with a final report including actionable recommendations within one year.

WHEREAS, it is with gratitude that the county accepts SIU Medicine's offer to provide in-kind staffing support to lead the support work of the commission; and

WHEREAS, to further the purposes of this resolution and to support SIU Medicine and all of the work of the Massey Commission, including additional staff support, research, Commission meetings, communication, events, engagement, the Board appropriates the sum of \$175,000 for the commission to do its work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sangamon County Board on this 18th day of September 2024 that the Massey Commission be established following the aforementioned purpose, process and structure.

Approved by the Finance Committee September 10, 2024

 , Chairman

Chairman, Sangamon County Board

ATTEST:

County Clerk