



Annapolis, MD

[Politics & Government](#)

5 Past Lynchings In Anne Arundel Are Topic Of Upcoming Meeting

An upcoming meeting will discuss the five lynchings from Anne Arundel County's past. Officials hope to address this history.



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The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission will discuss the five lynchings in Anne Arundel County's history this Saturday at Annapolis City Hall, which is pictured above. (Jacob Baumgart/Patch)

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD — This weekend, a commission will discuss the five past lynchings in Anne Arundel County's history.

The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hosting the meeting on the racially motivated killings.

A 2019 law established that group and ordered it to research lynchings, hold public hearings in communities where they happened and make suggestions for addressing this history.

All are welcome to attend the meetings. The hearings may feature the descendants of victims, witnesses and perpetrators.

County Executive Steuart Pittman and Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley will speak at the Anne Arundel County meeting, [Meanwhile, in Annapolis reported.](#)

Journalist Rich Hottel said County Councilwoman Lisa Bodine and Annapolis

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Aldерwoman Ellie Tierney will read resolutions apologizing for the past lynchings.

The Annapolis Police Department will be there, Hutzell said. The story did not mention whether the Anne Arundel County Police Department or the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office will attend.

The Victims

The hearing will focus on the lynchings of:

- John Simms
- George Briscoe

- Henry Davis
- King Johnson

The [Maryland Lynching Memorial Project](#) reported the following [accounts of the lynchings](#).

Simms was accused of assaulting and raping a white woman. Justice Elijah C. Jackson, a half-brother of the victim, presided over the case. Simms was seized from an Annapolis jail and lynched on June 7, 1875.

Briscoe was arrested and charged with a string of robberies. He was intercepted on the way back to an Annapolis jail and killed in Jacobsville on Nov. 26, 1884.

Smith was charged with assaulting a white woman. A mob broke into the jail on Oct. 5, 1898. They repeatedly shot Smith in the Annapolis streets while he ran for his life.

Davis was also accused of assaulting a white woman. A mob overpowered jail guards on Dec. 21, 1906. Davis was then paraded through the streets, shot and hanged in Annapolis.

Johnson faced allegations of fatally shooting a white man during an argument over a pool game. Johnson was jailed in Brooklyn, where he was left unguarded. Eight men seized, beat and shot him on Dec. 23, 1911.

For more detailed accounts of the lynchings, read [Hutzell's full story](#).

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The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission said it will also explore the involvement of the media as well as state, county and local governments. The group pointed to the Maryland General Assembly's failure to

"It is also well documented that county sheriffs and jailers allowed mobs to take men from jail with impunity," the commission said in a [press release](#). "County state's attorneys refused to identify and bring charges against members of lynch mobs, county coroners routinely claimed that the victims of lynching died 'at the hands of parties unknown,' and newspaper coverage of these events helped to perpetuate a culture that condoned and encouraged racial terror lynchings."

The Meeting

Here are all the details on this weekend's hearing:

When: Saturday, October 8, 2022

Time (in person and streaming): 9 am to 1 pm; with a 10-minute break

Where: City of Annapolis Council Chambers, 160 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. There is a side door entrance available for those with handicap/accessibility needs.

Parking near Annapolis City Hall is very limited. Visitors can park at Park Place and take the free downtown shuttle. Get off at the stop, "City Hall." For more information on accessing downtown Annapolis, visit www.AccessAnnapolis.com/visiting-downtown/

How You Can Attend:

IN PERSON: Pre-registration is required. We must limit the number of people who can register due to space capacity. Please let us know if you must cancel so that we may honor those on the waiting list. You will pass through security. At

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this time there are no mask requirements but you will be asked to adhere to any other safety protocols that are required.

STREAMING: A link to stream the hearing will be posted on MLTRC's website one day before the hearing.

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How You Can Share Your Story:

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written testimony concerning how the lynching of the victims (or other unidentified County victims) has impacted their lives and their communities or making recommendations to address the legacy of lynching in Maryland and promote racial healing. Submit your testimony to mltrc@maryland.gov or bring your written testimony if you attend in-person and it will be collected.

The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission can be reached at

<https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/> or via email at mltrc@maryland.gov.

Connecting The Dots Anne Arundel County can be reached at <https://mdlynchingmemorial.wixsite.com/aaco> or via email at ctdaaco@gmail.com.

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