

MEDIA ADVISORY

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Hold Public Hearing in Frederick County on April 13, 2024

For Immediate Release

FREDERICK, Md.— The [Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) (MLTRC) will hold a public hearing in Frederick County on April 13, 2024, as part of its ongoing effort to bring awareness to Maryland's history of racial violence and to foster reconciliation in the present. Research reveals that at least three Black men were lynched in Frederick County and 38 were lynched across Maryland.

The hearing will focus on the history of lynching in Frederick County, including the [killings of James Carroll in 1879, John Biggus in 1887, and James Bowens in 1895](#). Descendants of the victims and aggressors, expert witnesses, community members, scholars, and archivists will have the opportunity to provide testimony and make recommendations for achieving racial healing. Community members are encouraged to submit their testimony to mltrc@maryland.gov or bring their written testimony to be collected at the public hearing.

Established in 2019 through [House Bill 307](#), the MLTRC is the first statewide commission of its kind in the nation. MLTRC defines lynching as the unlawful killing of an African American by white mob violence, often with the apparent complicity of state and local officials, intended to incite racial terror and subservience to white supremacy. The commission researches cases of lynching throughout the state and holds public hearings in communities where lynchings took place to shine a light on the dark legacy of lynching in Maryland and its enduring impacts on the Black community and communities of color. At the heart of the MLTRC's mission is the pursuit of justice and healing for the victims of lynching and their descendants.

HEARING DETAILS

When: Saturday, April 13, 2024

Time (in person and streaming): 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Where: Lincoln Elementary School, 200 Madison St., Frederick, MD 21701

How to Attend:

- *In-person*: [Preregistration](#) is required to help manage attendance.
- *Livestream*: A link to stream the hearing will be posted on MLTRC's [website](#) one day before the hearing.

SUBMIT TESTIMONY

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written testimony about how the lynching of the victim (or other unidentified Frederick County victims) has impacted their lives and their communities or make recommendations to address the legacy of lynching in Maryland and promote racial healing. Written testimony can be submitted to mltrc@maryland.gov or collected at the public hearing.

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