From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/31/2021 2:24:34 PM
To: S. Antanette Mosley <antanettemosley@avlcouncil.com>
Cc:
Subject: not sure if this will be released...

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAEV4QDaxuo&t=2887s

Hi Ms. Mosley,

I'm not sure if this show is going to be released because the audio is pretty bad but the raw video is up on WPVM's YouTube page. You might want to take a look soon in case it gets removed. Ms. Wisler asked me about it the other night. I'm remiss that I didn't say hello to you directly. I did get to exchange a wave and nod with Ms. Roney.

Anyway, I'd love to meet with you again to discuss how Asheville was actually a Jim Crow laboratory which developed voter suppression tactics, implemented them here for the first time in our State's history, and these governmental and electoral changes spread to other cities in North Carolina. I have to clarify some of my confusing math and dates that I mentioned the other night. My Forty-nine Years riff was supposed to range from 1888- 1937. That last date was when Asheville was redlined by William Coleman. His name is on the redlining docs and mapping provided by our former Department of Equity and inclusion. That rascal William Coleman was on the 1931 special three-person Board of Municipal Elections, Along with a man named Joe Sierver and Mr. Gudger. Back in 1897, when Bob Brachette was lynched based on the accusations of 22 year-old Kittie Henderson, Ms. Henderson sought refuge from her alleged rapist at the Coleman residence in Weaverville, and she was attended to by a Dr. Siever. They aren't the same men who served on the elections board in 1931, but I'd bet they were kin. Also, Locke Craig arrived in Asheville in 1883, not 1893. It's the study of that man and his tenure in Asheville which really elucidates the Jim Crow laboratory I am referring to.

I bring this bit of history to your attention because it is vitally important in understanding the origins of systemic racism and the need for us to fully identify and eradicate those remnants of Jim Crow. As I mentioned to Council, this really wasn't discussed at the reparations lecture series. On the first night of that series a young woman asked what contributed to the 1930's exodus of black citizens of Buncombe County and Dr. Turner really couldn't answer the question. Of course there isn't a specific answer but a rundown of the years leading up and into the 1930's pretty much shows how blacks were treated from a couple lynchings, both involving mobs taking over the jail and Bob Brachett's transfer to safety being intercepted as he boarded a train bound for Raleigh and met a mob that marched him from Swannanoa to Weaverville, with the plan of lynching him at Kittie Henderson's home but they chose the Hemphill school yard instead. When on reviews these 50 or so years the question becomes "Why wouldn't blacks leave?" So, to be more precise with my math and dates, 1883-1937, 54 years of Asheville's least attractive history, which I could break down in as little as 20 minutes or quite richly for a solid hour easily. If you have an interest in that I would offer we have a conversation with more people. Perhaps an informal yet intentional kind of presentation. Maybe Mr. Hackett could avail his coffee shop. I really liked what he had to say on the third night of the lecture series. That night was quite good as far as the panelists go. The local voices really revealed a lot.

Hope you enjoyed your June and July. I will be speaking about the life and death of Bob Brachett at the end of then next Council Meeting. Three minutes in an almost empty room after a long night about Charlotte Street I believe.

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