



**GWINNETT
REMEMBRANCE
COALITION**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAWRENCEVILLE, Georgia – The Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition, in partnership with The City of Lawrenceville, Gwinnett County, and the Gwinnett Historical Restoration & Preservation Board, presents a Soil Collection Ceremony on June 19, 2021, 10:00am -11:30am, to honor the memory of Gwinnett lynching victim Charles Hale. Charles Hale was lynched in 1911 in Lawrenceville Square.

The event will take place at West Pike Street and Perry Street (corner) near the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. We encourage attendees to bring chairs, if desired, and plan for warm weather.

Gwinnett County District 1 Commissioner Kirkland Carden emphasizes, “We cannot heal the deep wounds inflicted by racial terrorism until we tell the truth about it. My hope is that this event will, in some way, help to right these horrific wrongs and perhaps bring a measure of peace to the memories of these individuals, their descendants, and their loved ones.”

The Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition (GRC) is a group of concerned Gwinnett residents who have come together with a shared purpose — to memorialize local victims of racial terror lynchings and to educate the Gwinnett community about this dark chapter in our county’s history.

Marlene Taylor Crawford, Chairwoman of the Gwinnett Historical Restoration & Preservation Board, explains, “History must be told unfiltered and unadulterated. To that end, we must acknowledge lynchings, including that of Mr. Charles Hale, if we are to fully educate ourselves about our nation's history, and prevent racial violence and injustice from continuing to manifest itself today. Our shared responsibility is to shed light on injustice, and drive pointed discussion and action to promote change starting within our own communities. Regardless of the pain that unfolds along our journey, we must not relent on our mission to enable dialogue, trust and healing.”

The Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition is also partnering with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). Soil collected will be sent to EJI, which gathers soil from lynching sites nationwide for the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama.

While confronting this history is painful, doing so is essential if we are to learn from the past and move beyond it. Our silence about this history allows the legacy of racist violence and injustice to continue to poison our community in ways that harm us all. Only by coming together to face past wrongs can we ensure that they are not repeated.

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GRC members come from a variety of backgrounds, races and ethnicities, faith traditions, occupations, and neighborhoods, with strong buy-in and leadership from Gwinnett’s African-American community.