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**Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission Work Group #3:  
History of Lynching in Virginia**

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**Senate Committee Room A, Pocahontas Building  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018  
10:30 A.M.**

**SUMMARY**

The History of Lynching in Virginia Work Group (the Work Group) of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission (the Commission) met to finalize a resolution on lynching to put forth to the General Assembly and to discuss the Work Group's role in contributing to existing efforts to shed light on the history of lynching in Virginia.

Senator McClellan, chair of the Commission, gave an overview of the work of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), which has released a report documenting more than 4,400 lynchings in the South between 1877 and 1950. EJI has created the Community Remembrance Project to recognize victims of lynching through historical markers, collection of soil from lynching sites, and creation of a national memorial. The Work Group discussed tying its efforts to commemorate lynchings in Virginia to the broader work of EJI.

Jim Hare, Director of the Division of Survey and Register at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), described DHR's work to document sites of lynchings in Virginia. DHR erects between 40 and 60 highway markers annually and in April 2019 will dedicate its first marker documenting the site of a lynching. The marker in Charles City County will mark the site of the April 6, 1892, lynching of Isaac Brandon. Mr. Hare noted that DHR is in communication with EJI to avoid duplication of efforts and to keep EJI informed of Virginia's historic marker approval process.

At its previous meeting, the Work Group discussed putting forth a resolution in the 2019 Session of the General Assembly recognizing victims of lynching in Virginia. Work Group members reviewed draft text of a proposed resolution acknowledging with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching in the Commonwealth. Members offered revisions to adjust and strengthen the language, and the Work Group approved a revised draft to be reviewed by the Commission later in the afternoon.

Members discussed initial ideas for programming to take place around the state in communities where lynchings occurred. The Work Group planned to support DHR's April historic marker dedication. Zann Nelson recommended programming in Culpeper, which the Work Group tentatively planned to host in 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and a meeting of the Commission commenced.