

## **Resolution** Compensation for the descendants of the victims of the 1898 Massacre

*WHEREAS on November 10, 1898, Wilmington, NC was the largest city in North Carolina, the best developed ocean port easily accessible for trade with Africa, the only black-owned daily newspaper in the country, and political and personal friendships developing between black and white neighbors and community leaders.*

*AND WHEREAS a large number of black professionals-- attorneys, business owners, entrepreneurs, ministers, public officials, and civil servants--were managing their own businesses and buying homes throughout the city, creating a model of diverse peoples living and working together for the good of the community. The black and white leaders of this union' movement had taken considerable risks to build this model for 33 years, since the institution of slavery and the legal categorization of African Americans as chattel property was defeated in 1865.*

*AND WHEREAS the democratic party of New Hanover, conspiring with the state and regional leadership of the old democratic organization that was controlled by the defeated slave-holders and their allies, decided that the successful efforts of blacks and whites in Wilmington to work together for the progress of God's human race had to be stopped before this idea spread across the south. Through a series of racist propaganda and agitation tactics that prepared the ground, the leaders of the old democratic party prepared and trained the 'red shirts'--a para-military group of terrorists, and developed a secret plan to overthrow the elected government of Wilmington on November 10, 1898.*

*AND WHEREAS two days after the election of a fusionist white mayor and a bi-racial city council, the armed terrorists received their marching orders and illegally seized power from the elected government, the only coup de eta in the history of the United States. More than 1500 terrorists participated in burning of the black-owned newspaper (pictured)*

*AND WHEREAS the armed leaders, with their terrorist militia, led by Alfred Waddell (Democratic leader), violently banished black officials, community leaders and pastors from their homes and from Wilmington. Many never returned, and left the south permanently. The number of black people who were murdered that day by the terrorist attack has never been disclosed. Estimates range for several dozen to hundreds. The terrorists roamed through the city, murdering any black person who they saw, and using a machine gun mounted on a wagon to spray bullets into black houses. All of this is documented in the 2006 state of North Carolina's official report on the 1898 attack: <http://www.oh.dcr.state.nc.us/1898-wrnc>.*

*AND WHEREAS this holocaust--more people (all black people) per capita were killed in Wilmington on that one day than were killed in New York City by a similar terrorist attack on September 11, 2001--resulted in a mass and permanent theft of black peoples' homes, property, businesses, and their bank accounts. White supremacists, who had just engaged in mass murder, absconded with the property of black people they had murdered or banished--either directly or indirectly, violated two of the ten commandments, "thou shalt not kill" and "thou shalt not steal" before the year was out, by taking over the police department and the courts, and transferring millions of dollars of property into their names, to start the all-white economic development of the racially traumatized city of Wilmington;*

*AND WHEREAS both black and white residents appealed to the President of the United States, William McKinley, to send in federal troops to guard and return the stolen property to its owners, neither the United States nor the state of North Carolina responded to the fusionists.*

*AND WHEREAS many of the most educated African Americans left the city permanently, and thousands of others who were just starting to get their economic feet on the ground moved north for safer environment, Wilmington turned from a black-majority to a white-majority city.*

*AND WHEREAS the history books and the few people who knew about this terrorist attack used the phrase "1898 Riot" to describe it, the correct term is the terrorist attack on fusion political movement, or the "1898 massacre" of innocent black people in Wilmington on November 10, 1898.*

*AND WHEREAS the racist democratic party declared, as they took control of Wilmington, in its white declaration of independence: "we the undersigned citizens of the city of Wilmington and county of New Hanover, do hereby declare that we will no longer be ruled, and will never be ruled by men of African origin " .*

*AND WHEREAS the racist democrats won the governor's office in 1900 with tactics similar to those they successfully used in 1898, and the racist democrats rammed through a suffrage amendment to the NC constitution that virtually*

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*eliminated African American voting rights and perpetuated race segregation that lasted until the Civil Rights Movements of the 1950's and 1960's which included the Voting Rights Act of 1965 led by the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

**AND WHEREAS** the 1898 massacre was finally acknowledged by the NC general assembly in 2000 and was officially documented in 2006; (<<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/1898-wrrc>>.)

**AND WHEREAS** *the descendants of the 1898 victims were economically and emotionally injured by the trauma of the 1898 terrorist attack and theft and these injuries were compounded by the county, state and nation's systematic denial and cover-up of the facts for almost a century. The legacy of this holocaust still haunts the economic and political life of Wilmington, as many white-owned businesses and political careers were financed with the spoils of the devastating attack, and African Americans in New Hanover county today own less than 1% of local businesses and have only two black elected officials;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the racist democratic party of 1898 is not the same as the anti-racist democratic party of 2014, which believes in justice, liberty and equality for all regardless of race, gender or religion, and has repeatedly rejected the white supremacy ideas and policies;*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** *that New Hanover Democratic Party believes that true healing of our traumatized community cannot begin without compensating the descendants of the victims of the 1898 massacre, recognizing that no amount of money can compensate for the injuries suffered by the whole African American community as result of the massacre;*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the New Hanover County Democratic Party begin a continuing campaign to persuade the NC General Assembly to support compensation to the victims of the 1898 massacre to bring closure and healing to this tragic event in our party's history by supporting a bill that would provide compensation. That upon the passage of this resolution at the county convention of the New Hanover County democratic party, it will be forwarded to North Carolina Democratic party and to the NC representatives of New Hanover county to introduce a bill to provide for fair compensation to the victims of the 1898 massacre.