

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum - Abraham Lincoln Unitarian
Universalist Congregation - Alderwoman Erin Conley - Alderwoman Kristen Dicenso
- Alderman Shawn Gregory - Black Lives Matter SPI - Devine Nine Greek
Organizations - Dominican Sisters, Springfield, IL - Equal Justice Initiative - Faith
Coalition for the Common Good - Flower City Order of the Eastern Star - Illinois
Freemasonry - Jewish Federation of Springfield, IL - Mayor James O. Langfelder -
Memorial Health - NAACP Illinois State Conference - NAACP Springfield Chapter -
Sierra Club - Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum -
Springfield Call 2 ACTion - Springfield Dominican Anti-Racism Team- Springfield
Illinois Univ. School of Medicine - Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network - St.
John's Hospital**

January 24, 2022

Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of our coalition elected officials and organizations, in Illinois and across the United States, we are writing to urge you to use the Antiquities Act to designate a new national monument to commemorate the 1908 Springfield Race Riot.

We strongly believe that this area is worthy of monument status. With less than a quarter of our country's national parks devoted to recognizing the histories of diverse peoples, movements, and cultures, designating this site will help guarantee that our public lands reflect the diversity of the country. Similar to the Pullman, Stonewall, Honouliuli, and other recent national monuments, a Springfield Race Riot monument would highlight an often-forgotten event in American history.

The proposed Springfield Race Riot monument would encompass the archeological site near Madison Street and the 10th Street Rail Corridor. After discovering the site and objects such as the foundations of the five houses burned down during the riot, in 2014, the Federal Railroad Administration and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office determined that the area is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

We also urge you to designate the new Springfield Race Riot National Monument in conjunction with the 113th anniversary of the NAACP's founding, Black History Month, and the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. The Springfield Race Riot helped spur the formation of the NAACP, on February 12, so a monument designation and proclamation is

an appropriate way to mark an infamous event in American history and honor the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

The undersigned officials and coalition of groups strongly urge the Biden Administration to designate a new national monument to commemorate the 1908 Springfield Race Riot and to honor the NAACP. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sierra Club

NAACP Illinois State Conference

Mayor James O. Langfelder

NAACP Springfield Chapter

Alderman Shawn Gregory

Black Lives Matter SPI

Alderwoman Erin Conley

Jewish Federation of Springfield, IL

Alderwoman Kristen Dicenso

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Springfield Call 2 ACTION

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist
Congregation

CC: Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory