

May 19, 2021
Regina Goodwin
State Representative, Tulsa, Ok
Descendant of 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Survivors.

I am a fourth generation Tulsan and the descendant of 1921 Tulsa race massacre survivors, my great-grandparents Carlie Marie and James Henri Goodwin, my great aunt Anna and grandfather Edward Goodwin Sr.

They helped build the thriving black community of Greenwood in Tulsa Oklahoma. My great-grandfather was the business manager of the Tulsa Star newspaper, and a co-founder of Jackson's Funeral Parlor; In 1921, my grandfather was a senior in high school, preparing for a graduation ceremony and decorating for the senior prom when he heard "trouble was coming".

100 years ago, a reparations lawsuit was timely filed in 1921 by my great-grandparents James Henri and Carlie Marie Goodwin. According to lawsuit, No.23368, filed in the Tulsa County Courthouse, my great grandparents were living quietly, peacefully, lawfully, in other words they weren't doing anything to provoke an attack.

The deadliest act of racial terrorism happened on American soil, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 31-June 1st, when an estimated 300 black persons were burned, shot and bombed by white mobs.

No charges, no convictions, no one held accountable for the murders. No Justice, Just stories passed down such as the telling of a black man and woman shot in the back of their heads as they knelt together in prayer or of houses and businesses set ablaze and destroyed by wicked arsonists.

My family, simply by God's grace survived, while the mamas and daddies of too many others did not. Generations and generational wealth was lost.

Partial property losses of many black Tulsans at that time totalled \$1.8 million which some estimate as \$100-\$150 million in today's dollars. The Goodwin family lost the 2 story Goodwin building at 123 N. Greenwood. My great-grandmother listed as destroyed, 14 other properties along with four feather beds, kitchen furniture, a piano and library books.

Collective determination and a legal victory in the Ok. Supreme Court by BC Franklin allowed for the rebuilding of houses in the Greenwood community.

My grandfather would become the youngest entrepreneur in the rebirth of Greenwood in the 1920's and 1930's.

He would own a haberdashery and in 1936 the Oklahoma Eagle newspaper today, the oldest black newspaper in Oklahoma.

In the 60's and 70's, I grew up on 1415 N. Greenwood Ave. Within a block and a half, was the hospital where I was born, my church, a BBQ spot, my school and the funeral parlor. The circle of life was in my community.

The Greenwood community was led into decline through redlining, expressway intrusions and urban removal. The systemic racism, and implementation of detrimental policy continue the harm begun 100 years ago. As a State Representative of the Greenwood area, I am aware other city and state officials were complicit in the demise of Greenwood, Generations later, we continue to fight the continued harm. We remain resilient and committed to build up; 100 years later, the memory and mission of our ancestors continues to be compelling. Reparations, Restoration and Compensation are due.