

COVER PAGE

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**Hearing Title: Continuing Injustice: The Centennial of the Tulsa-Greenwood
Race Massacre**

Testimony of Clarence Henderson regarding the 1921 Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre

The 1921 Tulsa race riot was a dark and horrific time in America's history and should be recognized as such. It was a massacre that is virtually unmatched in the recording of history in America and should be acknowledged and recognized by Congress so that history does not repeat itself.

This is one of the great lessons of history that shows us of the past divide of America. It is an American past and not an American present. If we study American history in chronological order, we will see that our progress has not been a straight line, there have been detours.

Nevertheless, we see the progress that has been made. We see the ratification of the 13th, 14th, 15th and also the 19th Amendment. If we look further, we see the various Civil Rights Acts that have been implemented to recognize that we should judge people by their character and not the color of their skin. We see laws in place dedicated to the self-evident truth that it is God ordained that we are all created equal.

In every instance, where blacks have prospered and succeeded to the heights of business, academia, politics and more, it has been accomplished not because government threw money at perceived problems, but because our will to succeed was given the freedom to break down boundaries, and remove obstacles.

Given the atrocity of the Tulsa Race Massacre with lives, homes, businesses, and millions of dollars of black wealth destroyed, as well as mass incarcerations, the Trump administration enacted policies that focused on building up the black community. . The conservative policies instituted during the Trump Administration, namely, the First Step Act, funding for HBCU's, Opportunity Zones, and the five billion dollar Platinum Plan is diametrically opposed with what occurred in 1921. Such policies led to a free market, options in education, lower taxes, entrepreneurialism and the freedom to choose one's own path. A true attempt to level the playing field for Black America and restore some wealth that had been destroyed.

Unfortunately, like what occurred in Tulsa, some would like to effectively erase from collective memory the strides made to improve the black community under the previous administration. As Frederick Douglass stated "The life of a nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous."

When I look at our country today, I see a nation that has chosen to be governed by the rule of law and not the rule of man. The United States is great, not because it is perfect. I don't see systemic racism. I see systemic corruption. Yes, our past involved racial injustices. Yes, racism does exist. Yes, socioeconomic issues plague many of our communities. It is great however, because the freedoms all Americans have, bestowed onto us, by our Constitution, which gives

us the ability to improve on our imperfections, to evolve from our past mistakes, and to get as close to true equality, in comparison to anywhere else in the world.

I hope this resolution is used to recognize a horrific past injustice so it is not repeated, and not used as a political tool to promote systemic racism. I hope this resolution is not used as a political tool to cause legal enforcement of the law to cease and desist. I hope this resolution will not be used to politicize every facet of this nation's racial diversity for political gain to further exploit and emotionally cripple the black community.

As a participant in the 1960 Woolworth Sit-in Movement, I recognize freedom is not free, there is a price to be paid and it is continuous.