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African American Historic Sites Committee
Montgomery County, Maryland

What is past is prologue is stated on the National Archives building in Washington, D.C. We are not Makers of History. We are made by History.

I am a member of the Montgomery County African American Historical Signs Committee.

I was invited to be a member of this committee because of my interest and research into American history. I do not hold titles in this field, but I am an active member of several American history organizations that seek to preserve American history and I am a Civil War re-enactor.

America is a special space on the world's map of freedom and justice. On February 22, 2019 our Signs Committee was invited to present the work we had been doing to help preserve and honor our County's African American history and its connection to fostering racial equality.

We had researched and produced 5 signs of 5 communities in our county that highlighted the environmental areas of living conditions and the educational importance of being citizens of character as well as raising the next generation of residents with character, too.

These neighborhoods survived on little or nothing financially from our county government, but they thrived on love and help from God for their needs.

A budget was set aside with the funding required to produce these signs we drafted, but I understand because of terminology used on the signs to accurately explain the era of our ethnicity, we were told that would be illegal. Thus, we could not refer to the legal history or terminology used during the period of the 30's, 40's and 50's. It was never explained and we never saw a written document that forbade or told us certain references were illegal today. (We even produced the statement on the signs to clarify the terminology used in the various periods time of our lives even though our race is stated on our birth certificates. Thus, the money appropriated for the signs was taken from the project.

Today, my community "Lyttonsville" is creating a small museum of its history and we desire to place our MARKER or SIGN in an area of our neighborhood that will reveal the roots of who we are. (We have picked out the perfect place in the new neighborhood park we wish to place it. Would you please restore the funding we need to place our SIGN in the public square. The 5 signs belong to the neighborhoods for which we did the research.

NOTE: I SIGNED IN ON THE LINK FOR THE HEARING, but for some reason I heard I was a "no show." Therefore, I can only say--- I was not plugged into the hearing. I heard and saw the session, but for some reason your equipment did not record my presence. I am truly sorry this happened because I wanted to be heard.