City of Tulsa
1921 Race Massacre Graves Investigation Update

Public Oversight Committee Meeting – June 21, 2022
Meeting Agenda

• Welcome

• Budget Update

• DNA Update from Utah Coalition Intermountain Forensics

• Update on next steps of key recommendations in the 1921 Graves Investigation

• Questions
## Project Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations (FY20+FY21+FY22)</th>
<th>Actual Spent Funds and Committed Funds under contract (as of 06-21-2022)</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800,642</td>
<td>609,455.16</td>
<td>191,187</td>
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Budget Update

City Council approved Mayor GT Bynum’s FY23 budget that includes $1M for the Graves Investigation.

City of Tulsa has applied for the Emmett Till Cold Case Grant to support the Graves Investigation.
DNA Update from Intermountain Forensics

- 28 samples received
  - 1 bone, 1 tooth/teeth for each body

- Initial results
  - VERY difficult and degraded samples

- Bone samples yielded no usable DNA

- Implementation of DNA sequencing instrument to work samples in-house

- Two samples ready for Genetic Genealogy
DNA Update from Intermountain Forensics

- Phase 1 Process:
  - Mechanical pulverization of bone and/or teeth
    - Tissuelyser II
  - DNA Extraction
    - Cells are “popped”, DNA is removed, non-DNA materials are washed away
  - DNA Quantification
    - Initial quantity of DNA in the extract is determined
    - Three data points
      - Total DNA
      - Male DNA
      - Degradation (quality) Index
DNA Update from Intermountain Forensics

• Phase 2 Process:
  – DNA Extracts sequenced on our in-house Illumina Novaseq 6000 DNA sequencing instrument
    • Validation/Optimization of instrument going on currently
    • Allows us a MUCH quicker turn around time than outsourcing this sequencing to an external laboratory
  – Bioinformatics
    • Sequencing data is transformed into a data file for Genetic Genealogy investigation
      – 300,000-700,000 Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms
      – Upload files for GEDMatch and Family Tree DNA
  – Genetic Genealogy investigation
    • “Match” list of similar DNA is generated
    • Genetic Genealogists attempt to locate family tree information relating to the body
    • May require requests from the community for 23andMe, Ancestry.Com DNA tests to be submitted
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BL#</th>
<th>Initial Quant Auto (teeth)</th>
<th>Final Quant (Auto)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>0.012</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Phase 1:**
**Teeth - Preliminary**
DNA Update from Intermountain Forensics

Phase 1: Bone - Preliminary

- No bone sample produced a usable DNA result
DNA Update from Intermountain Forensics

NEXT STEPS

• Work with technical experts to evaluate and identify further samples from the 12 remaining bodies that did not have enough DNA to move forward effectively

• Genetic Genealogy DNA Sequencing profile run scheduled
  – Sample R2/OU14/BL3
  – Sample R9/OU10/BL17
  – Expected Mid July/Early August
    • Validating/Optimizing our instrument for these difficult samples
DNA Update from Intermountain Forensics

Ways Community Members can help:

- Whether you have family stories, have taken a DNA test, would like to take one or have a family tree (digital or written), Intermountain Forensics would love to hear from you. Fill out the form online or visit any one of the Tulsa City-County Library locations.

https://www.intermountainforensics.com/tulsadnaproject

Or email at: info@tulsa1921dna.org
Proposed Next Phases of Fieldwork

- Geoarchaeological investigations at Newblock Park and the Canes
- Expanded excavations in Section 20, Oaklawn Cemetery
Possible Mass Graves Reported at Newblock Park & The Canes
Proposed Work at Newblock Park & The Canes

- Compile background information
- Conduct geoarchaeological coring/augering
- Assess and Interpret landscape history at each location
- Capture results in technical report
- Make recommendations for next steps
Excavations in Section 20, Oaklawn Cemetery
Proposed Next Fieldwork at Oaklawn: Main Steps

- Expand excavations from the 2021 excavation block
- Map and remove headstones in the area for safe storage in off-site location
- Monitor/Document mechanical removal of overlying soil
- Targeted excavation and exhumation strategy focused on male individuals interred in simple wood caskets with evidence of trauma
- On-site forensic analyses
- Coordinate DNA analysis and reburial in original location
- Plan and set aside funding for return of headstones and placement of new markers for those who did not have one
Update on Next Steps in the Investigation

Systematic enlargement of excavation area in Section 20 focusing on exhuming simple coffin, black male burials

- Finalize Scope of Work
- Hire an archeological contracting firm

Conduct geoarchaeological survey of Newblock Park/Canes areas

- Finalize Scope of Work
- Hire an archeological contracting firm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| 2018 | • City of Tulsa reopens investigation  
       • Build upon historical research from 2001 Race Riot Commission Report |
| 2019 | • Geophysical survey work begins at four areas of interest:  
       • Oaklawn Cemetery  
       • Newblock Park  
       • Rolling Oaks  
       • The Canes |
| 2020 | • Recommendation to conduct test excavations at Oaklawn Cemetery  
       • As a result of testing, no indication mass grave or human remains in Sexton Area and Clyde Eddy Area  
       • Unmarked graves detected in Original 18 Area |
| 2021 | • Conducted block excavations in Original 18 area  
       • Remains exhumed received forensic analysis  
       • Collected DNA samples  
       • Reinterred exhumed remains  
       • Selected DNA partner |
| 2022 | • Recommendation to conduct further excavation at Oaklawn Cemetery & geoarchaeological survey work at Newblock Park & The “Canes” site  
       • Completed Phase 1 of DNA Analysis  
       • Budget $1M in FY23 Budget |