

Beyond Apology Commission

Resolution in Support of the Muscogee (Creek) Freedmen and the Demand for Equal Citizenship Rights

Adopted by the Beyond Apology Commission of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Date: November 21, 2025

WHEREAS, the Beyond Apology Commission was established to advance truth, repair, and justice for the descendants of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and for the broader Black community of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of harm to Black and Freedmen communities in Oklahoma extends beyond Tulsa, rooted in the history of slavery and racial exclusion within the Five Civilized Tribes, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and

WHEREAS, following the Civil War, the 1866 Treaty between the United States and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation affirmed that the formerly enslaved people of the Nation known as Freedmen and their descendants shall have all the rights and privileges of native citizens; and

WHEREAS, despite this treaty obligation, the descendants of Muscogee (Creek) Freedmen have faced ongoing denial of citizenship and tribal enrollment by current tribal leadership, including the withholding and non-processing of applications submitted by Freedmen descendants; and

WHEREAS, these actions perpetuate historical harm and continue the pattern of exclusion, disenfranchisement, and cultural erasure that the Beyond Apology Commission seeks to end in all forms; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that reparations and justice are inseparable from the acknowledgment of Black Indigenous identity and the honoring of Freedmen descendants' rightful place within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Beyond Apology Commission:

1. **Stands in full solidarity** with the descendants of Muscogee (Creek) Freedmen in their pursuit of recognition, citizenship, and justice.
2. **Urges Principal Chief David Hill** and the Muscogee (Creek) National Council to immediately process and approve all pending citizenship applications from Freedmen descendants, as required by the Treaty of 1866.
3. **Calls upon federal and tribal oversight bodies** to ensure compliance with treaty obligations and to uphold the equal rights of Freedmen descendants.
4. **Commits to public advocacy and educational outreach** to raise awareness about the history and ongoing struggle of Freedmen within the Five Tribes, affirming that inclusion is an act of repair.
5. **Affirms** that no reconciliation, apology, or repair is complete until the descendants of the formerly enslaved are fully recognized and restored to their rightful place in both history and citizenship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Beyond Apology Commission will share this resolution publicly and transmit copies to Principal Chief David Hill, the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, Descendants of Freedmen of The Five Civilized Tribes Association, First Repair, and the National Congress of American Indians.

Signed,
Kristi Williams, Chair
Beyond Apology Commission
Tulsa, Oklahoma