



NAACP

DeKalb County Branch
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAACP DeKalb Lynching Remembrance Marker Is Stolen from Lithonia Park During Black History Month

Decatur, GA. NAACP DeKalb County Branch was notified today by Mayor Shemeka Reynolds of Lithonia that someone stole the Remembrance Project lynching marker sometime last week from William A. Kelly Park in Lithonia.

D. E. Smith, chairperson for the Remembrance Project, was speechless when she heard about the theft. "This is unbelievable and shocking especially during Black History Month," Smith said. "We worked so hard to get this plaque and it just hurts my heart to see it taken. It is like these people have been violated twice."

The Lithonia Police are investigating the theft of the memorial. The plaque was installed on July 17, 2021, after the Remembrance Committee compiled information about the victims of racial hatred in Lithonia. The committee spent over two years investigating and preparing a memorial that represented those names that could be discovered and those nameless black men that died at the hands of racial terror. The stolen marker was dedicated to memory of Ruben Hudson and the two unnamed victims in Lithonia. A total of three markers placed around DeKalb in remembrance of lynching victims.

Edwina Clanton, branch president, said, "The removal of this marker is not just an act of theft but an attempt to erase our collective memory and deny the painful truths of our past. Such actions only underscore the importance of our history."

Join us in the fight for justice and equity. Become a member of the NAACP DeKalb County Branch at www.naacpdekalb.org

Edwina Clanton, President

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