

RESOLUTION NO. 18 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION TO OFFER AN APOLOGY TO THE STUDENTS OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, LED BY REVEREND H. CALVIN AUSTIN FOR AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1963, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

BY: COUNCILWOMAN TABATHA TAYLOR

WHEREAS, On Monday, September 23, 1963, the students at Booker T. Washington High School, led by Reverend H. Calvin Austin conducted a peaceful march from Booker T. Washington High School down Milam Street headed to downtown Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the students were met by Police Chief George D'Artois and a mob of armed officers on foot and in squad cars. The students were ordered back to school but stood their ground in protest for the beating to Reverend Harry Blake on Sunday, September 22, 1963; and

WHEREAS, when the children refused to turn back, police brutally attacked them with batons and teargas; and

WHEREAS, students frantically ran from officers and returned to the campus of Booker T. Washington, police attempted to enter the school and proceeded to attack Principal R. H. Brown and several teachers as they attempted to protect the students; and

WHEREAS, several students and teachers were arrested and taken to jail, among those was Reverend H. Calvin Austin, who was charged with in sighting a riot, unlawful assembly, and disturbing the peace; and

WHEREAS, after spending 45 days in jail Reverend H. Calvin Austin was expelled from Booker T. Washington High School by the Caddo Parish School Board and was banned from attending public school in Caddo Parish and surrounding areas. Reverend H. Calvin Austin was forced to complete his senior year of education in the City of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport owes an official apology to the students of Booker T. Washington High School, led by Reverend H. Calvin Austin for the treatment they received at the hands of officers and employees of the City of Shreveport.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due, regular and legal session convened, that an official apology is extended to the students of Booker T. Washington High School, led by Reverend H. Calvin Austin for the treatment they received at the hands of officers and employees and agents of the City of Shreveport which occurred on Monday, September 23, 1963.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be executed in duplicate originals with one original presented to the Booker T. Washington High School, Reverend H. Calvin Austin, and the other original filed in perpetuity in the office of the Clerk of Council for the City of Shreveport.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office