

# DESIGNATE SPRINGFIELD 1908 RACE RIOT NATIONAL MONUMENT



Starting on August 14, 1908, a white mob attacked and lynched Black people and burned their homes in Springfield, Illinois, within blocks of the former home of Abraham Lincoln.

As one of the country's worst examples of mass racial violence, the Springfield Race Riot generated outrage which led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.

Despite our nation's long history of race riots and thousands of lynchings, the National Park Service (NPS) does not have any parks that tell these terrible stories or the birth of the NAACP and the courage of Ida B. Wells-Barnett who fought to stop racial violence.

Thanks to the leadership of the Springfield Branch of the NAACP and local community, the City of Springfield has pledged to donate city property to the United States to establish the National Monument. The property includes the foundations of African American homes that were burned in the riot.

President Biden has the power to designate the National Monument to acknowledge this terrible chapter in our history and to help our nation heal and learn.

## ***President Biden, Springfield is ready.***

*Our community is united and requests your leadership to help our nation move forward. **We ask you to listen to our voices and fill in a critical gap in the National Park System.***

*By using the Antiquities Act, you can help unite our nation, advance racial justice, and build on the legacy of Abraham Lincoln.*

### **Teresa Haley**

*President, Springfield Branch, NAACP*

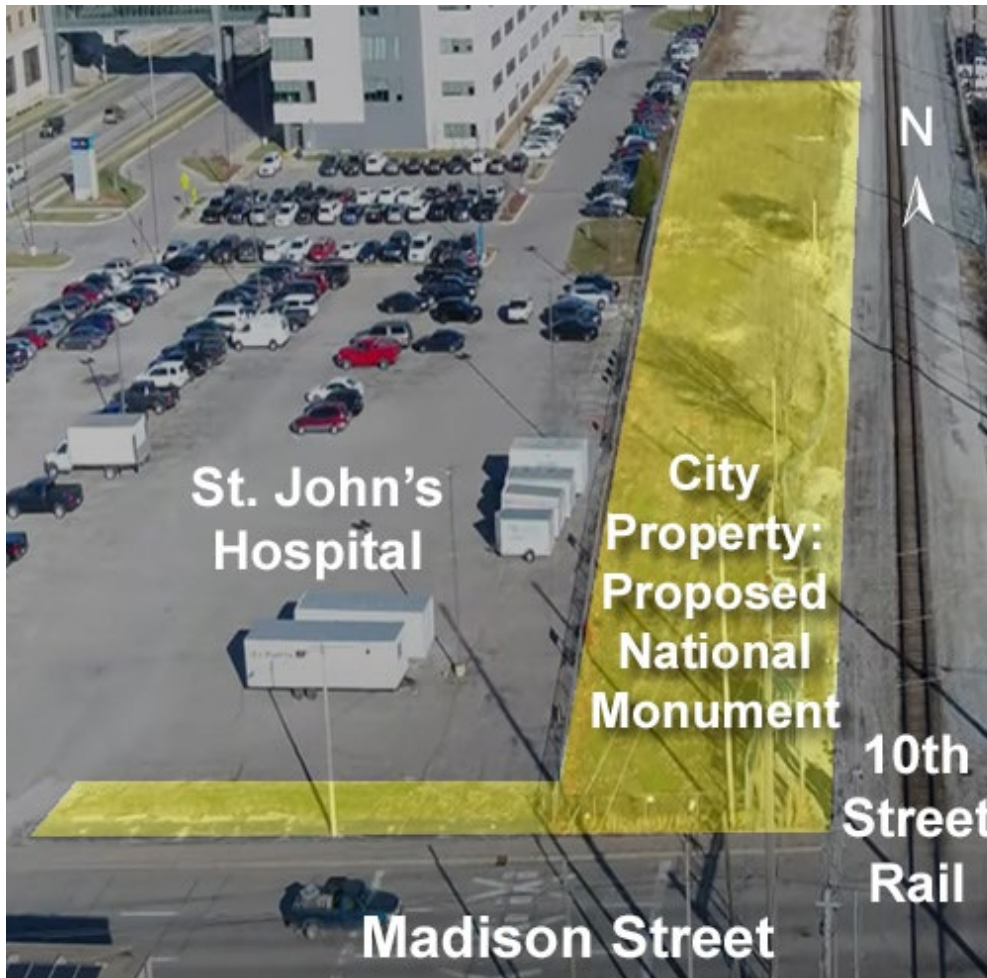


# The proposed monument enjoys strong bipartisan support:



*The Springfield site would be the first national park to tell the story of Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Her famous 1909 speech, "Lynching Our National Crime," addressed the tragic events in Springfield.*

- In 2018, Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) asked the NPS to conduct a Reconnaissance Survey. In 2019, NPS found that the site likely meets NPS criteria.
- In 2020, Congress passed bipartisan legislation to authorize a Special Resource Study (SRS). Secretary David Bernhardt added the site to the African American Civil Rights Network.
- In 2021, the IL Congressional delegation introduced bipartisan legislation to authorize the Monument.
- Sens. Duckworth & Durbin and Republican House members asked Pres. Biden to proclaim a Monument.
- Following the Springfield NAACP public meeting in August 2022, the NPS found overwhelming public support for the Monument.



## Questions:

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