A brief overview of significant events in Mecklenburg County's racial history



lives in what comes to be called Mecklenburg County

1750s

1852-61

1857

### Johnson C. Smith University

originally, the Freedmen's College of North Carolina, was founded April 7

1670s

### **European Settlers Arrive**

1762 Mecklenburg County is founded

#### Railroads

transform Charlotte into a central hub for the plantation economy. At the start of the Civil War, Meck. Co. had nearly 7,000 slaves - 40% of the population

### 1867

### **Charlotte Female Institute**

Is founded, and later becomes Queens University of Charlotte



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1861 1882 1898 1900 1913

#### Secession Support

88% of
Mecklenburg
County voters
support secession
from the Union



# Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools established

Whites attend South
School (East Morehead/
South Blvd) and Blacks
attend Myers Street
School (South McDowell/
East Stonewall St.).

### Wilmington Massacre

NC's White South Democratic Party leads a mob of 2000+ to murder an undetermined number of Black leaders and destroy their businesses and property

#### White Supremacy

Charlotte Mayor J.D.
McCall convenes the
White Supremacy
Club (March 2) and on
that same day,
Police Chief W.S. Orr
leads parade of White
Supremacy leaders in
front of a crowd of
approximately 5,000

#### Joseph McNeely is lynched

in Mecklenburg County on August 26

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1929

Charlotte
Mecklenburg
Police
Department

Hires its first Black police officers

1946

Brown v. Board of Ed.

- Integrates Schools

unanimously ruling that the racial segregation of public schools is unconstitutional

1960s-1970s

### Desegregation "Eat-In" and CPCC founded

Civil Rights leaders and White business leaders eat lunch together in Charlotte's upscale restaurants and hotels, defying segregation laws and that same year, an integrated CPCC is founded

Willie McDaniel is lynched

in Mecklenburg County on June 29



UNC Charlotte 1954

is founded to offer evening classes to returning veterans Gentrification

Over an 11-year period Charlotte tears down 1,480 structures in the Brooklyn neighborhood (including numerous traditionally Black churches that were sold to historically White churches so they could expand). 1963

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#### Swann v. Mecklenburg Board of Education

unanimously implements the integration of Charlotte's public schools on April 20

1975

### **Charlotte elects first Black Mayor**

Harvey Gantt serves as the city's mayor from 1983-1987

### **Community Building Initiative (CBI)**

is established by civic and governmental leaders in response to a community crisis around issues of race

1999/2000

1971

1983

1997

#### **Highway Displacement**

affects mostly families of color displaced by the development of Highway 277



#### Capacchione

family sues Board of Ed. (September 9) over integration/forced bussing, school assignment can no longer consider race (2000), and CMS becomes re-segregated

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## Race Matters for Juvenile Justice (RMJJ)

is formed to reduce disproportionality and disparate outcomes for children of color in juvenile court

## Disproportionality & Disparities in Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice

presented by RMJJ to 400+ at the Westin Hotel to raise awareness of racial and ethnic disparities in child welfare and juvenile justice (January 28)

2013

2014

2015

2010

2011

#### **Jonathan Ferrell**

24-year old former football player is unarmed and shot 10 times by CMPD Officer Wes Kerrick (September 14)

## Charlotte 50<sup>th</sup> out of 50 on economic mobility

"Chetty Study" (Harvard, Berkley, and Treasury Department research) finds

### Segregated Schools

for the 2014/15 school-year, 50% of CMS schools were segregated by race (80% more of one race) and 33% of Charlotte's schools were segregated by poverty (80% or more of students qualify for free/reduced lunch)



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#### **Leading on Opportunity**

formed to implement the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force recommendations and to address economic mobility for children in Charlotte through three key determinants and two cross-cutting factors

#### Government Alliance on Race and Equity

launches the North Carolina GARE Learning Community for local and regional government (July 22)

2016

Keith Lamont 2017 Scott

43-year old picking his child up from school bus stop, is shot and killed by CMPD Officer Brentley Vinson (September 20) 2019

