

THE CRC NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

Promoting harmony & respect among a diverse citizenry of our state



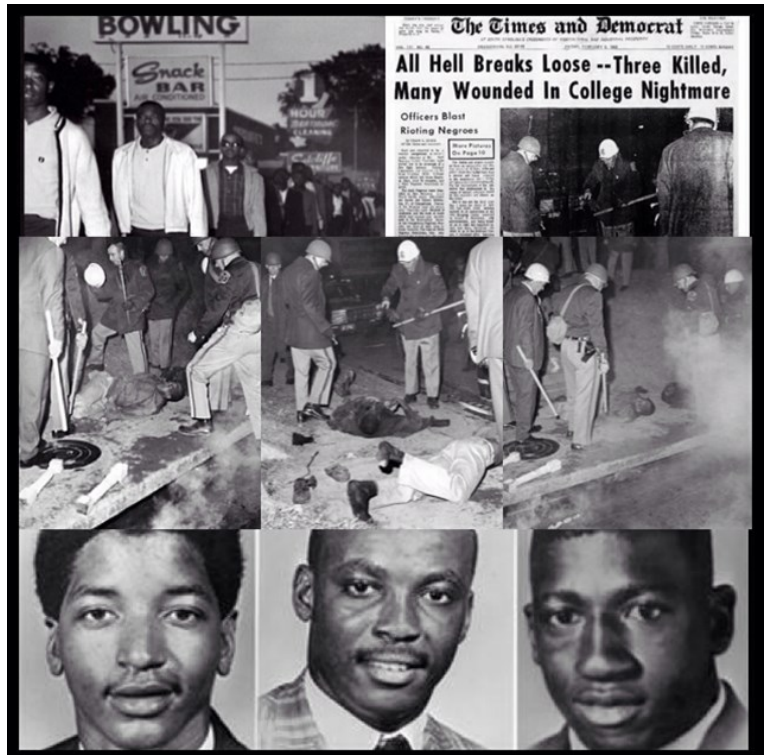
South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
www.schac.sc.gov

Volume III, Issue 2 February 2018

50 Years Since the 1968 Orangeburg Massacre

On February 6, 1968, the All Star Bowling Lane Alley in Orangeburg, South Carolina, denied entry to black students. The students began a protest outside of the bowling alley while police and state troopers began to line the street. The protest ended on February 8, 1968, when two black male students of SC State University and a 17-year-old black teenager were killed during “The Orangeburg Massacre” on the campus of SC State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. According to an article from journalist Jennifer Phillips of Fox Carolina, Lloyd Walker and Samuel Feemster shared their recollection of events those three nights in February 1968.

During an interview on February 5, 2018, with Phillips, Feemster states that a white male companion of his had been sent inside of the bowling alley in which the white male was allowed to bowl and Feemster was denied entry. Feemster then proceeded to join the protest. Walker states that on the night of February 8, 1968, he joined friends around a bonfire protest on the campus of SC State University but felt sick and decided to visit the campus infirmary. Upon reaching the infirmary, Walker recalls hearing what sounded like explosions. Moments later the infirmary was filled with students who had been victims to gunshot wounds. It is said that a state trooper attempted to put out the bonfire and in the process was injured by a piece of a banister thrown from the crowd. This initiated gunshots from police officers and state troopers who began shooting into the crowd. Feemster was in his dormitory when he heard the ring of shots. Feemster and Walker both remember being afraid for their lives, not knowing if they would be killed during the traumatic incident.



As a result of this tragedy and several other incidents involving racial unrest, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission was created in 1972. The commission administers and enforces the SC Human Affairs Law which defines discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age (40 years or over), national

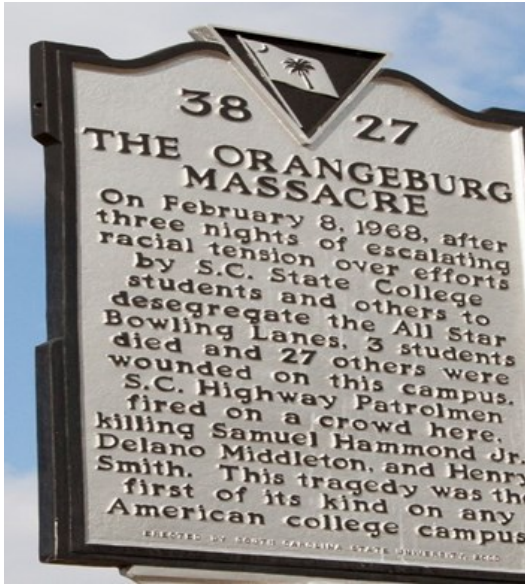


Promoting harmony & respect among a diverse citizenry of our state Community Relations Councils

1026 Sumter Street, Suite 101
Columbia, SC 29201
T: (803)737-7800
F: (803)253-4191
W: www.schac.sc.gov

Current CRCs:

Columbia, West Columbia, Lee, Allendale, Hampton, Beaufort, Jasper, Berkeley, Myrtle Beach, Georgetown, Lancaster, Rock Hill, Greenwood, Greenville, Anderson, Laurens, McCormick, Aiken



(continued from page 1)
origin, or disability as “unlawful and in conflict with the ideals of South Carolina and the nation, as this discrimination interferes with opportunities of the individual to receive employment and to develop according to the individual’s own ability and is degrading to human dignity”.

The SC Human Affairs Commission works to ensure civil and equal rights are practiced in the workplace, housing, and public accommodations, and to foster goodwill and harmony among all South Carolinians. Should an individual feel discriminated based upon the policies set forth by the Commission, that individual should contact our agency immediately. In light of 50 years passing of “The Orangeburg Massacre”, we would like to honor the lives of the three men who were killed: Samuel Hammond, Henry Smith, and Delano Middleton.

Reference:

Phillips, Jennifer. (2018). Fox Carolina. “Two Upstate friends recall Orangeburg Massacre 50 years later”. <http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/37432852/two-upstate-friends-recall-orangeburg-massacre-50-years-later>.

Annual Event Calendar for COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCILS

January

MLK/Interfaith Awareness

February

African American History

March

Women’s History/End Racism Day

April

Fair Housing

May

Law Enforcement/
Community Relations

June

Disaster Preparedness/Emanuel 9
Remembrance Day, Peace & Reconciliation

July

Employment Discrimination/
Economic Opportunity

August

Youth Project/Back to School

September

Hispanic Heritage/
Cultural Diversity

October

Disability Employment Awareness

November

American Indian Heritage/
Veterans’ Appreciation

December

Aging & Poverty Issues