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THE BUDGET

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

April 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

I applaud the City of Alexandria and the community at large for your continued efforts to acknowledge the dark history of lynching in Alexandria, Virginia, and America. By memorializing Joseph McCoy and other victims of lynching, we force ourselves to reckon with one of the biggest moral failures in the history of our Commonwealth and country.

Sadly, racial injustice and violence is not only in our history, but also our present. We must continue to reform our systems and make them equitable for all. This is why I have cosponsored legislation to finally make lynching a federal crime, while also improving transparency in policing by collecting better and more accurate data of police misconduct and use-of-force, improving police training and practices, and holding police accountable in our courts. These reforms and many others are long overdue, and we see the need for them every time we look at the news.

Your advocacy is an important step in truly dismantling the painful architecture of discrimination against African Americans that began on Virginia soil more than 400 years ago. I am proud to serve as your senator and support efforts such as these. Best wishes for a meaningful memorial.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine