

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 171

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 22, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

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Assemblywoman **BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE**

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman **SHAVONDA E. SUMTER**

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Assemblyman **JAMEL C. HOLLEY**

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman **HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

District 7 (Burlington)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **Tully**, Assemblywomen **Lopez**, **Vainieri** **Huttle**,

Assemblyman **McKeon**, Assemblywoman **Swain** and Assemblyman

**Kennedy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates July 13th as “Black Lives Matter Day” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2020)

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating July 13th of each year as “Black  
2       Lives Matter Day” in New Jersey.  
3

4   **WHEREAS**, In response to both current and historically disparate  
5       treatment of Black people, a movement arose to assert that “Black  
6       Lives Matter;” and

7   **WHEREAS**, The movement began as a social media hashtag in 2013, and  
8       expanded into a national movement; and

9   **WHEREAS**, Freedom Fighters around the globe commemorate July 13th  
10       as the day three Black women, Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and  
11       Opal Tometti, turned the Black Lives Matter hashtag into a global  
12       movement; and

13   **WHEREAS**, The Black Lives Matter movement affirms the humanity  
14       and resilience of Black Americans in the face of deadly oppression,  
15       and seeks to highlight the importance of Black lives through activism  
16       in a system that has historically displayed and proved that Black lives  
17       do not matter; and

18   **WHEREAS**, The movement is a growing network of individuals,  
19       families, and businesses invested in the deactivation of systemic  
20       racism endured by all people of color; and

21   **WHEREAS**, The movement has gained international attention  
22       specifically after being highlighted and acknowledged on a larger  
23       scale in 2020 following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna  
24       Taylor, and George Floyd – all Black lives that were taken unjustly;  
25       and

26   **WHEREAS**, According to the 2017 Police Violence Report, more than  
27       25 percent of the people killed in America by police were Black  
28       Americans, even though they constitute approximately only 13  
29       percent of the nation’s population; and

30   **WHEREAS**, This Legislature acknowledges the problems that Black  
31       New Jerseyans encounter with police and other public safety  
32       officials; and

33   **WHEREAS**, This Legislature recognizes the importance of the Black  
34       Lives Matter movement in the United States and New Jersey’s  
35       communities; and

36   **WHEREAS**, This Legislature supports the understandings and  
37       affirmations that underlie the Black Lives Matter movement, and  
38       seeks to address institutionalized racism; and

39   **WHEREAS**, In support of the Black Lives Matter movement, this  
40       Legislature supports the coming together to proclaim a day of action,  
41       affirmation, and solidarity, to be called, “Black Lives Matter Day;”  
42       and

43   **WHEREAS**, The purpose of the day will be to commemorate collective,  
44       Statewide efforts to recognize the message behind the movement  
45       including its purpose in combatting systematic racism and violence  
46       against Black people; now, therefore,

