# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 171

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)** 

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)** 

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

**District 31 (Hudson)** 

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)** 

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)** 

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

**District 7 (Burlington)** 

**Co-Sponsored by:** 

Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Lopez, Vainieri Huttle,

THE

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,		

### **AJR171 SPEIGHT, TIMBERLAKE**

BE IT R	<b>RESOLVED</b> by the Senate an	ad General Assembly	of the State
of New Jer	·sey:		

1. July 13th of each year is designated as "Black Lives Matter Day" in New Jersey to commemorate collective, Statewide efforts to recognize the movement and its purpose to combat systematic racism and violence against Black people.

2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe "Black Lives Matter Day" with appropriate activities and programs.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT**

This joint resolution designates July 13th of each year as "Black Lives Matter Day" in New Jersey.

In response to both current and historically disparate treatment of Black people, a nationwide movement arose to assert that "Black Lives Matter." The movement began as a social media hashtag in 2013. Freedom Fighters around the globe commemorate July 13th as the day three Black women, Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometti, turned the hashtag into a global movement.

The movement has gained international attention specifically after being highlighted and acknowledged on a larger scale following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd – all Black people whose lives were taken unjustly.

The Black Lives Matter movement affirms the humanity and resilience of Black Americans in the face of deadly oppression, and seeks to highlight the importance of Black lives through activism in a system that has historically displayed and proved that Black lives do not matter.

According to the 2017 Police Violence Report, more than 25 percent of the people killed in America by police were Black Americans, even though they constitute approximately only 13 percent of the nation's population. This Legislature acknowledges the problems that Black New Jerseyans encounter with police and other public safety officials. This Legislature recognizes the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States and New Jersey's communities.

In support of the movement, New Jersey should come together to proclaim a day of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called, "Black Lives Matter Day." The day will be set to commemorate collective, Statewide efforts to recognize the movement and its purpose in combatting systematic racism and violence against Black people.