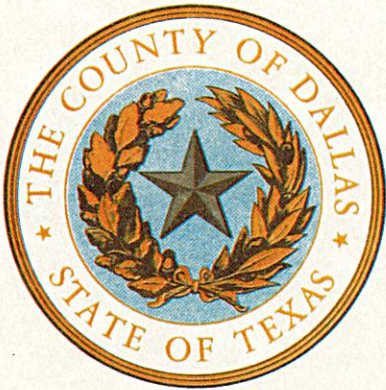


Resolution



ORDER NO: 2026-0116

DATE: January 21, 2026

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas held on the 21st day of January, 2026, on motion made by Commissioner John Wiley Price, District 3, and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2026, the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office presented evidence and testimony regarding the conviction of Tommy Lee Walker in the case styled *The State of Texas v. Tommy Lee Walker*, Cause No. 5,213-HI, in the Dallas County Criminal District Court, No. 2 (January term, 1954) (hereinafter referred to as the “Walker Case”).

WHEREAS, Tommy Lee Walker was a 19-year-old Black man who was convicted in Dallas County in 1954 for the rape and murder of Venice Lorraine Parker and was subsequently executed by the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, this conviction occurred during a period in Dallas and throughout the United States marked by racial segregation, systemic injustice, and inequality within the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, in the decades since Mr. Walker’s conviction and execution, advances in legal standards and scientific understanding have revealed significant flaws in historic investigative and prosecutorial practices, including in the Walker Case; and

WHEREAS, the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office, through its Conviction Integrity Unit and in collaboration with the Innocence Project of New York and the Northeastern University School of Law’s Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, conducted a comprehensive review of Mr. Walker’s case (hereinafter referred to as the “Case Review Participants”), despite the substantial challenges posed by the age of the matter and the loss of evidence and witnesses over time; and

WHEREAS, the Case Review Participants uncovered credible and compelling information demonstrating that Mr. Walker’s arrest, interrogation, prosecution and conviction were fundamentally compromised by false or unreliable evidence, coercive interrogation tactics, and racial bias; and

WHEREAS, the Case Review Participants found evidence that establishes that there were egregious violations of Mr. Walker’s constitutional rights, including his arrest without probable cause, his interrogation without the assistance of counsel, the denial of a jury representative of his peers, the suppression and misrepresentation of material evidence, and the use of a confession now recognized as unreliable under modern scientific and legal standards; and

WHEREAS, the evidence compiled by the Case Review Participants was presented to the Commissioners Court at this meeting; and

WHEREAS, the evidence presented to the Commissioners Court includes evidence that Tommy Lee Walker: had no ties to the crime or the crime scene; lived miles from the crime scene and did not have a vehicle; had several alibi witnesses who stated his girlfriend was in labor and he was preparing for the birth of his first child at the time of the crime; was picked up four months after the crime during investigation of an unrelated non-violent crime wherein he was identified as someone who could have information; and

WHEREAS, the only direct evidence connecting Tommy Lee Walker to this offense, is a confession obtained through the use of coercive tactics; and

WHEREAS, after extensive research and analysis in years since Mr. Walker's case, these deceptive and improper interrogation methods have been proven to be a direct cause of false confessions throughout history and nation-wide, sparking not only a wave of DNA-confirmed exonerations but legislative changes:

- The Central Park Five (New York, 2002): Five Black teenagers convicted of the 1989 assault and rape of a female jogger, were exonerated when the confessions were determined to have been obtained using coercive and deceptive tactics, with DNA evidence corroborating their innocence.
- The Englewood Four (Chicago, 2011): Illinois legislation barring police from lying to juveniles during interrogations is inspired by the exoneration of four Black males after DNA evidence corroborated their claims of coerced confessions.

WHEREAS, the totality of the evidence and information presented to the Commissioners Court supports the conclusion that Tommy Lee Walker's conviction was not only obtained unlawfully, but under present-day standards of justice and fairness, he likely would not have been prosecuted; and, further, the evidence and information presented raises serious questions that call into doubt his very culpability; and

WHEREAS, while present-day Dallas County officials bear no responsibility for the actions that led to this grave injustice, this County deems it a moral obligation to acknowledge the injustice surrounding the conviction of Tommy Lee Walker, confront history, and affirm Dallas County's commitment to justice for all persons, whether living or deceased; and

WHEREAS, justice has no statute of limitations and, when injustice is discovered, it should be recognized and acknowledged, for which there are many instances throughout history:

- In 1992 Pope John Paul II, after a 13-year investigation, determined the Church had erred in its 1633 condemnation of Galileo.
- In 2012 Queen Elizabeth II granted Alan Turing a posthumous Royal Pardon, recognizing the injustice of his 1952 conviction.
- The Groveland Four (Florida, 2017): Four Black men falsely accused of rape in 1949 were posthumously declared innocent by Florida Governor Rick Scott.
- Marcus Garvey (U.S. Federal, 2025): President Biden pardoned the influential Black nationalist, who died in 1940, for a mail fraud conviction that many saw as politically motivated
- Thomas & Meeks Griffin (South Carolina, 2014): After being electrocuted in 1915 for murder, these brothers received South Carolina's first posthumous pardon, acknowledging their likely innocence.

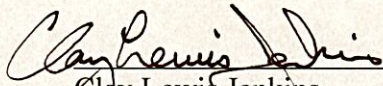
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby formally recognize and declare that Tommy Lee Walker was wrongfully convicted and executed, and that his conviction and execution represent a profound miscarriage of justice; and

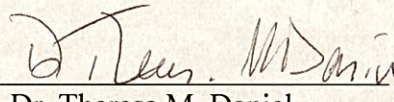
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dallas County Commissioners Court affirms the innocence of Tommy Lee Walker and acknowledges the harm caused to him, his family, and the community by this wrongful conviction; and

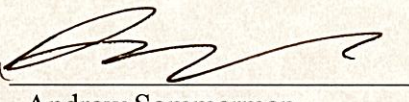
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in affirming the innocence of Tommy Lee Walker, the Dallas County Commissioners Court acknowledges the harm caused to the family of the victim in this case, by this wrongful conviction; and

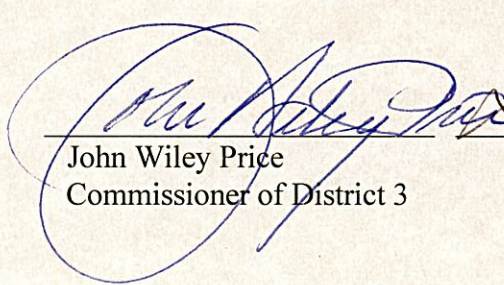
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration, issued in the interest of truth, accountability, and community healing, shall stand as a permanent and public acknowledgment by Dallas County of this injustice and as a solemn reminder of the County's duty and continued commitment to equal justice under the law and the protection of constitutional rights for all people.

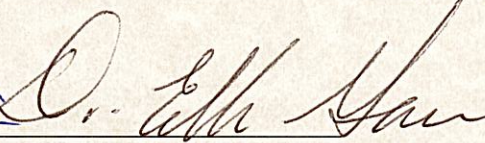
DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 21st day of January, 2026.


Clay Lewis Jenkins
County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel
Commissioner of District 1


Andrew Sommerman
Commissioner of District 2


John Wiley Price
Commissioner of District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia
Commissioner of District 4