Minnesotans for Racial Justice group to hold 95th Anniversary Remembrance Event to honor Ernest McDuffey

Community gathering honors the survivor of a 1931 attempted lynching in Anoka, Minnesota

Minnesotans for Racial Justice will host a community gathering at **1:00 p.m. on September 5, 2026, at Riverfront Memorial Park in Anoka, Minnesota**. The event honors the name and legacy of Ernest McDuffey, a Black garage employee who survived an attempted lynching at the Anoka city jail on September 5, 1931. This community gathering marks 95 years since the attempt on his life.

Our goals for the gathering are to have a day of sharing that will make our community stronger by:

- Acknowledging the racial terror and racial violence directed at Ernest McDuffey
- Restoring humanity to Ernest McDuffey (the event is completely erased from public memory)
- Recognizing that Anoka and Minnesota were not isolated from the racial violence that was ever present throughout our country
- Understanding that the social and political foundations of racial injustice and racial violence in the past are the origins of racial inequities and racial violence today

EVENT DETAILS

- **WHAT:** Ernest McDuffey 95th Anniversary Remembrance Event
- **WHEN:** Saturday, September 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Riverfront Memorial Park, Anoka, Minnesota, 2201 2nd Ave, Anoka, MN 55303
- **PUBLIC ACCESS:** Free and open to the public. All are welcome. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

SPEAKERS

- Nekima Levy Armstrong–award-winning civil rights lawyer and scholar-activist
- Pastor Dr. Brian C. Herron Sr.–Zion Baptist Church in Minneapolis
- Brendan McBride, Chair–City of Anoka Human Rights Commission
- Representative–Minneapolis NAACP

COMMEMORATION

- On August 3, 2026, the Anoka City Council proclaimed September 5, 2026, as Remembrance Day in honor of Ernest McDuffey.