**Key Events Surrounding Montgomery Bus Boycott Chronology**

**Jan. 1863** Emancipation Proclamation

### **July 1868** Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution is passed.

**May 1896** *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision; Supreme Court rules 'Separate but Equal' is constitutional.

### **May 1909** Niagara Movement meets and pledges to promote racial equality (later becomes the NAACP [National Association for the Advanced of Colored People])

**1946** Women’s Political Council in Montgomery, Alabama is created.

**June 1953** African-Americans in Baton-Rouge, Louisiana boycott segregated city buses for two weeks. They have some success.

**May 1954** *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* Supreme Court decision

**August 1955** Murder of Emmett Till

### **Dec. 1, 1955** Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat and is arrested.

**Dec. 2, 1955** Women’s Political Council calls for bus boycott.

### **Dec. 5, 1955** First day of bus boycott. Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) formed, Martin Luther King, Jr. named President.

**Jan. 30, 1956** Martin Luther King Jr.’s home is bombed.

**Nov. 1956** Supreme Court affirms decision in *Browder v. Gayle* which found bus segregation laws unconstitutional.

### **Dec. 1956** Supreme Court rejects city and state appeals on its decision. Buses are desegregated in Montgomery.

**Document A: *Police Report* (Modified)**

Date 12-1-1955

Complainant: J.F. Blacke (white male) Address: 27 North Lewis St.

Offense: Miscellaneous

Date and Time Offense Committed: 12-1-55 6:06 pm

Place of Occurrence: In Front of Empire Theatre (On Montgomery Street)....

We received a call. Upon arrival the bus operator said he had a colored female sitting in the white section of the bus, and would not move back.

We (Day & Mixon) also saw her.

The bus operator signed a warrant for her. Rosa Parks, (colored female) 634 Cleveland Boulevard. Rosa Parks (colored female) was charged with chapter 6 section 11 of the Montgomery City Code.

Warrant #14254

Officers: F. B. Day, D. W. Mixon Division: Patrol

Time: 7:00 pm

**Source**: Police Department, City of Montgomery. December 1, 1955.

**DOCUMENT B: *Robinson* (Modified)**

*The Women’s Political Council was an African-American political organization in Montgomery, Alabama. It was founded in 1946 to work against racist policies. Jo Ann Robinson, an English professor at the all-black Alabama State College, was its second President. Here she writes the Mayor of Montgomery.*

Honorable Mayor W. Gayle City Hall

Montgomery, Alabama Dear Sir:

The Women’s Political Council is very grateful to you and the City Commissioners for the hearing you allowed our representative when the “bus-fare case” was being reviewed two months ago. There were several things the Council asked for:

1. A city law that would make it possible for Negroes to sit from back toward front, and whites from front toward back until all the seats are taken.
2. That Negroes not be forced to pay fare at front and go to the rear of the bus to enter.
3. That buses stop at every corner in Negro communities as they do in communities where whites live.

We are happy to report that buses have begun stopping at more corners now in some sections where Negroes live than before. However, the same practices in seating and boarding the bus continue.

Mayor Gayle, three-fourths of bus riders are Negroes. If Negroes did not ride them, they could not possibly run.

More and more of our people are riding with friends and neighbors to keep from being insulted and humiliated by bus drivers.

There has been talk from 25 or more local organizations of planning a city-wide boycott of buses. We, sir, do not feel that forceful actions are necessary in asking for something which is right for all bus passengers.

Please consider this plea [request], and if possible, act upon it, for even now plans are being made to ride less, or not at all, on our buses. We do not want this.

Respectfully yours,

The Women’s Political Council

Jo Ann Robinson, President

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|  **Document**  | **Publication date?** **Type of document?**  | **Audience for document?**  | **What action against segregated buses does this document include?**  | **Write a quotation or specific information from the source that illustrates your** **answer.**  |
| **Police Report**  |    |    |    |    |
| **Robinson**  |    |    |    |    |

**Tool A**

**Rosa Parks**

**Warm-Up Activity Organizer**

**What was the role of women in the Montgomery Bus Boycott?**