

File No. 231264

Committee Item No. 4

Board Item No. 17

## COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Date: February 15, 2024

Board of Supervisors Meeting:

Date: February 27, 2024

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Prepared by: Monique Crayton

Date: February 22, 2024

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants]

2

3 **Resolution apologizing on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of**  
4 **San Francisco to African Americans and their descendants for systemic and structural**  
5 **discrimination, targeted acts of violence, and atrocities; and committing to the**  
6 **rectification and redress of past policies and misdeeds.**

7

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a long history of creating and/or enforcing laws,  
9 policies, and institutions that have perpetuated racial inequity in our city, much of which is  
10 difficult to document due to historical erasure; and

11

12 WHEREAS, Since the force enslavement of people of African descent, there has been  
13 both resistance to the institution of chattel slavery and demands of redress thereof; and

14

15 WHEREAS, The genetic, psychological, financial, and racial trauma experienced by  
16 African Americans through slavery is one of the greatest crimes against humanity ever  
17 perpetuated and the practice of slavery in the United States was uniquely violent and wherein  
18 African Americans were foundationally and systematically disconnected from knowledge of  
19 their geographies, languages, names, relatives, and historic cultural practices; and

20

21 WHEREAS, The practice of chattel slavery was abolished in 1865, centuries of  
22 brutality, discrimination, and debilitating harms to African Americans have continued through  
23 Jim Crow laws, Black codes, separate but equal, racist housing policies, and denial of equal  
24 access and opportunity; and

25

26 WHEREAS, The conditions that have created such racial inequity are also  
27 compounded by the intersection of race with class, gender, sexuality, immigration status, and

28

1 other identities and experiences that have resulted in inequitable treatment or opportunities;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, With the acknowledgement that these findings are by no means an  
4 exhaustive list of systemic racism in San Francisco; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1937, San Francisco was one of 239 cities that was "redlined," by the  
6 Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the Home Owners' Loan Corporation and this process  
7 involved the creation of "residential security maps" which divided cities into areas that were  
8 appropriate for investment and areas that were more risk; and

9 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, neighborhoods with large populations of people of color  
10 including Western Addition, Bayview Hunters Point, the Haight, Chinatown, and parts of the  
11 Mission were deemed risky and some San Francisco neighborhoods were deemed risky by  
12 the Home Owners' Loan Corporation because of "undesirable racial elements," explicitly  
13 referring to Black residents, Jews, immigrants, and other people of color; and

14 WHEREAS, While residents in majority-white neighborhoods saw their property values  
15 and wealth rise, African Americans in redlined neighborhoods were denied loans, city  
16 investment, and infrastructure upgrades; this, in addition to the practice of racial covenants,  
17 resulted in systemic concentrations of poverty and blight in racially segregated communities;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, In 1942, as World War II continued, African Americans were recruited from  
20 the South to the Bay Area for jobs in the shipyards and other war industries and many moved  
21 into the homes, businesses, and properties in the Fillmore; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1947, the San Francisco Planning Commission submitted a plan to raze  
23 and rebuild a large zone in the Fillmore encompassing 36 blocks and the following year, the  
24 San Francisco Redevelopment Agency was founded, which subsequently used redlining and  
25

1 the Planning Commission’s proposed plan to institute “urban renewal” in the Fillmore and  
2 Western Addition, which had become a vibrant Black neighborhood but that was deemed  
3 “blighted” by San Francisco authorities; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the next 20 years in the name of “slum clearance,” many homes  
5 were razed, businesses destroyed, and more than 10,000 Black residents were displaced  
6 because of the policy; and

7 WHEREAS, Urban renewal was also instituted in other San Francisco neighborhoods,  
8 including South of Market, where 3,000 low-income and working-class residents of color and  
9 more than 700 small businesses were displaced; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 1950s and beyond, particularly in the context of a national Civil  
11 Rights Movement, systemic racism in San Francisco became much less explicit; and

12 WHEREAS, Moving away from overtly race-based exclusionary policies regarding land  
13 or businesses ownership, the City’s more recent and increasingly sophisticated racism has  
14 been defined by inaction or lack of intervention with regards to racial discrimination in  
15 employment, housing, education, healthcare, or the criminal justice system; and

16 WHEREAS, For centuries, through acts of willful and intentional discriminatory and  
17 exclusionary policies and practices, the City of San Francisco has systematically robbed Black  
18 San Franciscans of opportunities to build generational wealth; and

19 WHEREAS, Due to the City’s actions, Black San Franciscans have experienced the  
20 lack of access to affordable housing, quality education, living wage jobs, entrepreneurship  
21 opportunities, and thriving neighborhoods; and

22 WHEREAS, According to a study by the Brookings Institution in 2015, San Francisco  
23 had the ninth-highest general employment rate in the country (79%), but it was one of the  
24 cities with the highest employment disparity for Black people (53%) in the country; and  
25

1           WHEREAS, According to a study on life expectancy by the San Francisco Health  
2 Improvement Project (SFHIP), the life expectancy at birth in San Francisco from 2015-2017  
3 was 72.1 for Black San Franciscans and the 2019 San Francisco Community Health Needs  
4 Assessment found that racial health inequities and poverty were foundation issues that affect  
5 the health of San Franciscans, including nutrition, stress, heart disease, and more; and

6           WHEREAS, In San Francisco, Black women are twice as likely as white women to give  
7 birth prematurely and have the highest rates of prenatal morbidity and SFHIP also found that  
8 between 2007 and 2016, Black mothers had about 4% of births in San Francisco, but  
9 experienced 50% of maternal deaths, and 15% of infant deaths; and

10           WHEREAS, Food insecurity in San Francisco also strongly trends along racial lines, for  
11 instance, 20-30% of Black/African American pregnant people are food insecure; and

12           WHEREAS, The median income for Black households in San Francisco is \$46,571 and  
13 Black residents experience poverty at three times the overall poverty rate in San Francisco,  
14 with 46% of Black children living in poverty; and

15           WHEREAS, The impact of redlining since 1937 can still be seen today as 87% of  
16 redlined neighborhoods in San Francisco are low-income neighborhoods currently undergoing  
17 gentrification and Black residents have the lowest home ownership rates at 31%; and

18           WHEREAS, According to a report from the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD)  
19 in the last quarter of 2022, Black residents were 25 times more likely than white people to  
20 experience use of force from SFPD than white residents; and

21           WHEREAS, Though Black people make up less than six percent of San Francisco's  
22 population, they comprised 35 percent of the city's arrests, and 23 percent of SFPD stops in  
23 the first quarter of 2023 and Black residents have been disproportionately impacted by fatal  
24 police shootings; and  
25

1           WHEREAS, According to the 2022 Point in Time Count by the Department of  
2 Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Black, African American, or African unhoused people  
3 are overrepresented at 38% of the total homeless population compared to 6% of the general  
4 population; and

5           WHEREAS, Black students are significantly more likely to be suspended or expelled for  
6 less serious infractions compared to their white classmates and in San Francisco, Black  
7 students make up 37% of suspensions, compared to 7.3% of enrollment; and

8           WHEREAS, Blacks comprised 23.4% of the City workforce in 1976, but only 15.2% in  
9 2018, mimicking a dramatic decline in the Black San Francisco population and pointing to a  
10 push-out of the Black population as a whole; and

11           WHEREAS, Black workers are concentrated in the lowest-paid job classes, and are in  
12 a minority in the highest paid job classes and in 2018, while only approximately 15% of the  
13 workforce, Black workers made up 36% of dismissals, 24% of probationary releases, and 38%  
14 of medical separations; and

15           WHEREAS, Although the City has taken steps to undo the damage caused by past  
16 policies and practices, the racial disparities caused continue to the present date and despite  
17 progress in addressing explicit discrimination, racial inequality continue to be deep,  
18 persuasive, and persistent in San Francisco and no formal apology has ever been issued; and

19           WHEREAS, According to the African American Redress Network, less than twenty  
20 local or state governments have offered an official, blanket apology for slavery and its'  
21 impacts on African Americans; and

22           WHEREAS, Nine States that have issued apologizes for their history of discrimination,  
23 violence, and impact in the enslavement of African Americans, including, Alabama,  
24

1 Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, and  
2 Virginia; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2022, Boston became the first major city in to pass a Resolution to  
4 acknowledge, condemn, and apologize for the role played by the city in the slavery of African  
5 Americans and the ongoing detrimental impacts experienced by the Black People of Boston  
6 while pledging efforts to repair past and present harm done to African Americans; and

7 WHEREAS, On July 7, 2023, the San Francisco African American Reparations  
8 Advisory Committee published its final recommendations to include that the City and County  
9 of San Francisco and its agencies must issues a formal apology for the past harms, and  
10 commit to making substantial ongoing, systemic, and programmatic investments in Black  
11 communities to address historical harms; and

12 WHEREAS, An apology for grievous injustices cannot erase the past, but admission of  
13 the historic wrongdoings committed can aid us in solving the critical problems of discrimination  
14 and racism facing San Francisco and the broader United States today; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors acknowledges acts of  
16 fundamental injustice, terror, cruelty, and brutality committed against the Black San Francisco  
17 community; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors acknowledges  
19 the depth of harm experienced by generations of Black San Franciscans and the debilitating  
20 impact this has had; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, the San  
22 Francisco Board of Supervisors offers its deepest apologies to all African Americans and their  
23 descendants who came to San Francisco and were victims of systemic and structural  
24 discrimination, institutionalize racism, targeted acts of violence, and atrocities; and, be it

25

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, the San  
2           Francisco Board of Supervisors further apologizes to all African Americans and their  
3           descendants who came to San Francisco, on the historic failure to adequately improve the  
4           social determinants of health for Black San Franciscans due to structural racism which has  
5           had lasting and generational impacts to the mental, physical and environmental wellbeing for  
6           Black residents; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commit to non-  
8           repetition of the policies and practices which caused these harms; commit to the restoration  
9           for the ways that racism has caused insult to Black humanity and manifested in both visible  
10          and invisible trauma through the means of compensation, restoration, and rehabilitation; and  
11          commit to making substantial ongoing, systemic, and programmatic investments in Black  
12          communities to address historical and present harms; and be it

13          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges each City department to  
14          engage in the process of reflecting on their own role in the City's history of structural  
15          discrimination, and to issue their own apology for their actions.

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## Introduction Form

*(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)*



I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)  
*(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)*
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor  inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission       Youth Commission       Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission       Building Inspection Commission       Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes                       No

*(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)*

Sponsor(s):

Walton, Chan, Ronen, Preston

Subject:

Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants

Long Title or text listed:

Resolution apologizing on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to African Americans and their descendants for systemic and structural discrimination, targeted acts of violence, and atrocities; and committing to the rectification and redress of past policies and misdeeds.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: /s/ Shamann Walton

## **Crayton, Monique (BOS)**

---

**From:** Dee Seligman <deesel91@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 2:07 PM  
**To:** PrestonStaff (BOS); ChanStaff (BOS); StefaniStaff (BOS); Waltonstaff (BOS); Walton, Shamann (BOS); Crayton, Monique (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); Chan, Connie (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Please support the Apology To San Francisco AfricanAmericans and their descendants

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

This is long-overdue. It's a quick compendium of all the harms done to our Black citizens.

Thank you.

Dee Seligman, Ph.D.  
District 5 resident

## **Crayton, Monique (BOS)**

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**From:** tamibryant@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:50 PM  
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); PrestonStaff (BOS); Chan, Connie (BOS); ChanStaff (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); StefaniStaff (BOS); Walton, Shamann (BOS); Waltonstaff (BOS)  
**Subject:** San Franciscan of five plus decades SUPPORTS apology to Black San Franciscans and reparations

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

As a front line worker I cannot take off work and exercise my right to participate in my local government, so I am emailing my public comment in support of Supervisor Walton's legislation that San Francisco apologize to Black San Franciscans for the harm done by San Francisco government.

I urge you to support this legislation. I hope you will face constituents who don't agree with the steadfast resolve to do what is morally and ethically right.

It is not rocket science, Black people are over represented in all metrics for not leading happy and thriving lives. Higher rates of homelessness and unemployment. Lower wages, assigned to schools without adequate resources. Highest rates of police brutality and killings. Yet, due to the incredible resilience of Black people, our City has benefited and flourished from their contributions.

This apology is long overdue. Reparations are overdue. Yes, I support Cut the Check too!

Tami Bryant

Four plus decades D5 constituent

## **Crayton, Monique (BOS)**

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**From:** Elliot Helman <muzungu\_x@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 2:00 PM  
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); Chan, Connie (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); Walton, Shamann (BOS)  
**Cc:** Waltonstaff (BOS); PrestonStaff (BOS); ChanStaff (BOS); StefaniStaff (BOS)  
**Subject:** Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants

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Greetings,

As a white (and Jewish) resident of San Francisco, I was honored to have grown up in the first city to embark on the journey of making reparations to African Americans. I need not repeat all of the justifications for reparations that the Reparations Taskforce so clearly laid out in their proposal, or the eloquent statements of support I heard from every one of our City Supervisors.

I was also deeply disappointed when Mayor Breed chose not to fund an Office of Reparations. I do hope that our city will continue to push forward on this difficult task (made so much easier by the work of the Taskforce) and that we will make restitution to our African American neighbors here in the City.

Elliot Helman  
Mission Bay 94158

## **Crayton, Monique (BOS)**

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**From:** Ann Rubin <emailamr@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 10:30 PM  
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); PrestonStaff (BOS); Chan, Connie (BOS); ChanStaff (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); StefaniStaff (BOS)  
**Cc:** Walton, Shamann (BOS); Waltonstaff (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS)  
**Subject:** Support for Resolution for Apology to African Americans

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in support of the proposed resolution apologizing to members of our African American community, a crucial step for our city in living up to our values and for making us more whole as a society.

The San Francisco Advisory Committee on Reparations for African Americans did the hard work of making the case in their historic report and recommendations. The wider citizenry must now face this opportunity and be on the right side in acknowledging our history and making amends. Thank you to our elected leaders for showing the way by moving this resolution to the full BOS for approval.

I am an active member of the San Francisco Black & Jewish Unity Coalition, and we support reparations.

I am sorry that I cannot attend your meeting on Feb. 15 in person. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ann Rubin  
San Francisco  
resident of 94133

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

---

**From:** Anisha Hingorani <ahingorani@caasf.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** PrestonStaff (BOS); ChanStaff (BOS); StefaniStaff (BOS); Waltonstaff (BOS); Crayton, Monique (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); Chan, Connie (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); Walton, Shamann (BOS)  
**Subject:** Support - File #231264 Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Anisha Hingorani. I am with Chinese for Affirmative Action and we are filing our support of the Board of Supervisors Resolution 'Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants' (File #231264) authored by Supervisor Walton.

Chinese for Affirmative Action endorsed the San Francisco Reparations Plan and its recommendations that seek to redress that harm across the areas of economic empowerment, education, health, and policy for Black San Franciscans.

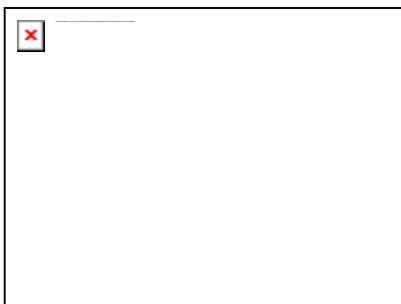
The Plan thoroughly documents San Francisco's role in enacting policies and practices of racist redlining and urban renewal, which led to the destruction of the Fillmore and Western Addition neighborhoods and displaced over 8,000 Black residents and businesses. These public decisions severed generational wealth building opportunities for Black families and contributed to the persistent disparities in economic, health, education, and social outcomes for Black San Franciscans that we see today.

We recognize the importance of demonstrating multi-racial support for Black reparations. We look forward to working with the Board and relevant stakeholders to successfully build strong bridges of solidarity across racial and ethnic groups to ensure citywide support for Black reparations.

This acknowledgement of harm and apology to African American constituents and their descendants is an important first step in the reparations process and we urge the Committee to support passage of the resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Anisha Hingorani

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[fmsltwfsnE hffxktwl%](#)

**From:** [Nhi Nguyen](#)  
**To:** [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support - File #231264 Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants  
**Date:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:12:22 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Nhi Nguyen. I am a Community Safety and Justice Policy Manager with Chinese for Affirmative Action, a civil rights organization based in San Francisco's Chinatown.

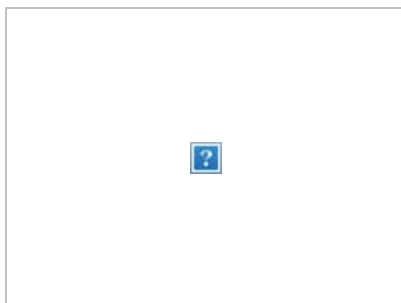
Chinese for Affirmative Action endorsed the San Francisco Reparations Plan and we support the resolution that acknowledges and apologizes for the harm experienced by Black San Franciscans due to the city's historical role in urban renewal, redlining, and other discriminatory practices.

Reparations for Black San Franciscans will create positive ripple effects for all communities of color in the city, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. We look forward to partnering with the Board, the Reparations Committee, and other stakeholders to ensure this important first step of acknowledgment and apology leads to a formal reparations program as outlined by the Reparations Plan.

We urge the Committee to approve this item. Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Nhi Nguyen

--



**Nhi Nguyen**  
**Chinese for Affirmative Action**  
**Community Safety and Justice Policy Manager**  
[she/her](#) | (415) 439-0635 | [mnguyen@caasf.org](mailto:mnguyen@caasf.org)  
CAA has multiple open positions. [Apply now!](#)

**From:** [Betsy Brody](#)  
**To:** [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of Resolution: Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants  
**Date:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:15:43 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

**RE: Resolution: Apologizing to African Americans and Their Descendants**

Dear Board of Supervisors Government Audit and Oversight Committee,

I am writing to voice my support for this resolution. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter!

With appreciation,

Betsy Brody



**From:** [Cheryl Thornton](#)  
**To:** [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Reparations  
**Date:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 3:03:43 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Government and Oversight Committee

As a concerned resident of San Francisco, I want to express my gratitude to the Board of Supervisors for their resolution proposing an apology to the Black community for the harm inflicted upon them. However, I urge you to recognize that an apology alone is insufficient without concrete measures to address the deep-rooted damage caused.

While this resolution is a commendable step forward, it is imperative that we also prioritize reparations to rectify historical injustices. Furthermore, it is crucial to acknowledge the ongoing harm perpetuated by policies and decisions that disproportionately impact Black residents, such as the recent proposal regarding middle school algebra.