

1 [Supporting United States House Resolution No. 40 (Jackson Lee) - Commission to Study and
2 Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act]

3 **Resolution supporting United States House Resolution No. 40, introduced by United**
4 **States Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Commission to Study and Develop**
5 **Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.**

6
7 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 40, Commission to Study and Develop Reparations
8 Proposals for African-Americans Act, introduced by United States Representative Sheila
9 Jackson Lee, calls for the establishment of a federal commission to study the impact of
10 slavery and discrimination against African Americans and to make recommendations for
11 Congress for reparations; and

12 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 40 has been introduced at every Congress since
13 1989 by United States Representatives John Conyers (1929-2019) and Sheila Jackson Lee;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, For the first time in this history of Congress, a hearing was finally held in
16 2019 at the House Committee on the Judiciary on the concept of reparations for African
17 Americans; and

18 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 40 will address the fundamental injustice, cruelty,
19 brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the thirteen American colonies
20 between 1619 and 1865; and

21 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 40 will establish a commission to study and
22 consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its
23 subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African
24 Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, and to make
25 recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies; and

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in
2 the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865; and

3 WHEREAS, The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by
4 the Government of the United States until 1865; and

5 WHEREAS, The slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and
6 inhuman deprivation of Africans' life, liberty, African citizenship rights, and cultural heritage,
7 and denied them the fruits of their own labor; and

8 WHEREAS, A preponderance of scholarly, legal, community evidentiary documentation
9 and popular culture makers constitute the basis for inquiry into the on-going effects of the
10 institution of slavery and its legacy of persistent systemic structures of discrimination on living
11 African Americans and society in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Following the abolition of slavery the United States Government, at the
13 Federal, State, and local level, continued to perpetuate, condone and often profit from
14 practices that continued to brutalize and disadvantage African-Americans, including share
15 cropping, convict leasing, Jim Crow, redlining, unequal education, and disproportionate
16 treatment at the hands of the criminal justice system; and

17 WHEREAS, As a result of the historic and continued discrimination, African-Americans
18 continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not
19 limited to having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more
20 than twice the current white unemployment rate; and an average of less than 1/16 of the
21 wealth of white families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time; and
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its endorsement for
24 House Resolution No. 40 as stated in Board Resolution No. 199-03, passed in 2003, on file
25 with the Clerk of the Board as File No. 030437; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the United
2 States Congress to pass House Resolution No. 40 and implement a federal commission to
3 study and develop reparations proposals for the African American Act; and, be it

4 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will be creating an
5 advisory committee on reparations for African Americans housed under the San Francisco
6 Human Rights Commission that can be an example of a commission for Congress for House
7 Resolution No. 40; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, no later than 30
9 days after the passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this Resolution to the
10 President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the U.S. Senators for the State of
12 California, and to the representatives of San Francisco on the California State Legislature
13 urging that they pass similar resolutions.

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