

File No. 200149

Committee Item No. 2

Board Item No. 20

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: Rules Committee

Date August 10, 2020

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date August 18, 2020

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### OTHER (Use back side if additional space is needed)

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Completed by: Victor Young Date August 6, 2020

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Supporting a Reparations Plan and Advisory Committee]

2

3 **Resolution supporting a reparations plan that will comprehensively address the**  
4 **inequities that exist in the African American community as a result of slavery’s legacy**  
5 **of systemic oppression and creation of an advisory committee for the African**  
6 **American community.**

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8 WHEREAS, African Americans were enslaved in the United States from 1619 to 1865,  
9 when slavery officially ended with the ratification of the 13th Amendment; and

10 WHEREAS, The trauma of slavery has remained throughout generations for the  
11 African American community and exists today; and

12 WHEREAS, The legacy of slavery continues to manifest in education disparities for the  
13 African American community; schools with majority African American students suffer from  
14 fewer material resources, advanced classes, experienced teachers, and school counselors,  
15 and lower completion rates, ultimately leading to lower acceptance rates at top universities;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, only 26% of African American students met state  
18 standards in the 2015-2016 school year, compared with 85.4% of white students; and

19 WHEREAS, The legacy of slavery continues to manifest in housing disparities for the  
20 African American community; and

21 WHEREAS, From 1934 to 1968, the Federal Housing Administration carried out a  
22 policy of “redlining,” refusing to back loans for African Americans; this forced African  
23 Americans to live in poor, under-resourced neighborhoods and strongly hindered wealth  
24 accumulation among African Americans; and

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1           WHEREAS, Because of low property value in previously redlined areas, landlords and  
2 investors have specifically targeted these areas for redevelopment and gentrification; as a  
3 result, to clear these areas for redevelopment, redlined areas in San Francisco are more  
4 affected by foreclosures on high-interest loans and no-fault evictions via recent laws like the  
5 Ellis Act than non-redlined areas in San Francisco; for example, folks living in Bayview  
6 Hunters Point, with a zip code of 94124, a predominantly African American neighborhood and  
7 previously redlined neighborhood, are 5 times more likely to face foreclosures than folks living  
8 in the Marina, with a zip code of 94129, a predominantly white neighborhood and not  
9 previously redlined; and

10           WHEREAS, The legacy of slavery continues to manifest in overcriminalization of the  
11 African American community; and

12           WHEREAS, African Americans in San Francisco are 7.7 times more likely than white  
13 San Franciscans to be arrested; once arrested, African Americans are more likely to be  
14 convicted, and once convicted, they are more likely to experience lengthy prison sentences;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, In San Francisco, these disparities have led to African Americans making  
17 up 41% of those arrested, 43% of those booked into jail, 38% of cases filed by the Office of  
18 the District Attorney, and 39% of new convictions despite making up only 6% of San  
19 Francisco's population; and

20           WHEREAS, The legacy of slavery continues to manifest in health disparities for the  
21 African American community; African American neighborhoods consistently have fewer  
22 healthy food options than white neighborhoods; this, in combination with predatory advertising  
23 by unhealthy food and drink companies, has led to African Americans having higher rates of  
24 diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and tooth decay among other disparities in cancer rates and  
25 mental health diseases; and

1           WHEREAS, In San Francisco, African Americans are 6.7 times more likely to be  
2 hospitalized by diabetes, 3 times more likely to have high blood pressure, 7 times more likely  
3 to have tuberculosis, and have an average life expectancy of ten fewer years than white San  
4 Franciscans; and

5           WHEREAS, Reparations are a financial recompense for African Americans whose  
6 ancestors provided free labor for hundreds of years and lived through the Jim Crow era; the  
7 enslavement and overall persecution of African Americans in the United States has enriched  
8 the United States and created disparities in income, wealth, and education between blacks  
9 and whites; reparations are needed to reduce these current-day legacies of slavery and Jim  
10 Crow; and

11           WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has previously acknowledged the  
12 wrongs of history towards African Americans in 2006 through Chapter 12Y: The San  
13 Francisco Slavery Disclosure Ordinance, which requires insurance companies, financial  
14 services firms, and textile companies, either directly or through their parent entities,  
15 subsidiaries, predecessors in interest, or otherwise engaged in slavery or the slave trade to  
16 disclose their history; now, therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors intends to create an  
18 advisory committee housed under the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to create a  
19 reparations plan that will comprehensively address the inequities that exist in the African  
20 American community as a result slavery's legacy of systemic oppression; this committee will  
21 be the first of its kind; and, be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That this reparations advisory committee will include input  
23 from the African American community on prioritizing reparations addressing education,  
24 housing, violence prevention, workforce development, economic opportunities, financial  
25 stability, small businesses, transportation, health disparities, food insecurity, and

1 overcriminalization to achieve a comprehensive and true reparations plan to alleviate the  
2 residue of oppression from slavery that continues to plague the African American community  
3 in San Francisco.

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SF Board of Supervisors Meeting Monday August 10,2020  
Item#2 Supporting a Reparations Plan and Advisory Committee

My name is Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scott, I am a native of San Francisco since the late forties beginning in D-5 and now in D-10 for over 30 years. I serve as SF Leading Clergy, Civic Leader/ member of the MegaBlack SF. I am here to during this historical window to appeal to our Supervisory Board to reconcile wrongs, making right the injustices against the SF Black/African American Nation since slavery. I support Mayor Breed and my Supervisor Shamann Walton with sponsors and advisory committee in the Reparations Plan to distribute \$120 million dollars to the targeted areas exclusively / only for the Black AA Communities.

Two of my priorities, for your attention are the targeted Senior homeowners by Banks with Predatory Loans, which late Willie B. Kennedy with many, a victim, never got her justice. The other EDUCATION: Our Westernized Education was not designed to include Black students nor African American History or its Culture. It was all excluded by design from American and World History in our Schools and Libraries. When a people don't know themselves, neither does the "World" around them know who they are. As a result of this omission we have been devalued and dehumanized. To "Know and Value" your SF Black AA Nation will build lives, Families, heal a nation, community and reconcile our City, State and our Nation. As Dr. King said, "We will get through this together hand in hand as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools.

I believe Teachers/Educators must be trained to properly work along beside our AA professionals in a healthy manner to rebuild minds/ health to help heal emotional damage.

I also believe curriculum should be so infused with history that our children can see themselves. My Story: In Grade school Raphael Weill, now Rosa Parks. The class was given an assignment of a biography on anyone. I had a number of Negro History Books at home, my Mom helped me select someone. I was given a "D" for penmanship/ told writing about a "Negro" was not acceptable. My dad a College Grad and my Mom parents of 7 kids, always very involved in our lives went to school with me, spoke with the Principal and Teacher. The Teacher was told to change the grade to an "A+" The School never added Negro History books; this, to their loss for knowledge of the rich American Negro/ Black History of this, not a perfect but great City. I believe we must Accurately Correct our History to make right this wrong...

You don't know just some of the inventions by AA Blacks in our nation, the **Thermostat control**- Frederick M. Jones; **Traffic Light**- Garrett Morgan; **Mail Box**-Paul Downing; **Lawn Sprinkler** John Smith; **Record Player Arm**- Joseph Dickinson; **Phone Transmitter**- Granville Woods; **1st in Putting man on the Moon** – Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden; **Stethoscope**- Thomas Carrington; **Lantern**- Michael Harvey; **Spark Plug**-Edmond Berger; **Air Conditioner** – Frederick M. Jones; **Chamber Commode Toilet**- Thomas Elkins; **Elevator**- Alexander Miles; **Electric Light Bulb** – Lewis Latimer; **Fire Ladder Escape**- Joseph Winters; **Fire extinguisher**- Thomas Marshall; **Gas Mask** – Garrett Morgan; **Lock** – Washington A. Martin... These are only some of our historical Inventions the world knows nothing about know. Yet we are devalued, dehumanized and considered non-contributors to society. All due to "We The People" are not in Historical files, Schools/Libraries. I believe, today "We are better than that!"