



SHAMANN WALTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tracy Gallardo 415-509-7266

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

*****SUPERVISOR WALTON ANNOUNCES REPARATIONS PLAN WITH
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERS AND CITY OFFICIALS*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—On Friday, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton joined African American elected-leaders, School Board Member Stevon Cook, City College Trustee Shanell Williams, former District 10 Supervisor and DCCC Vice-Chair Sophie Maxwell, members of the African American Faith-Based Community and Coalition, leaders in the African American community, allies from the Asian American and Latinx American communities and Supervisors Hillary Ronen, Matt Haney, Gordon Mar, Sandra Fewer, Dean Preston, and Ahsha Safai to announce an advisory committee to create a plan for reparations for the African American community.

African Americans were enslaved in the United States from 1619 to 1865, when slavery officially ended with the ratification of the 13th Amendment. However, the trauma of slavery remained in generations throughout the African American community and exists today. Prior to the enslavement of African Americans, this land was taken from Native Americans where their families were torn apart and soon after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, Chinese were excluded from this country through the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. In recent history, Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps during World War II, Arab Americans have been targeted since 9-11 and currently, Latinx immigrant children have been torn away from their families and locked in cages. The United States has a history of inflicting trauma on communities of color and that trauma continues to exist in our communities.

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



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Supervisor Walton’s creation of an advisory committee will include input from the African American community on prioritizing areas on education, housing, violence prevention, workforce development, economic opportunities, financial stability, small businesses, transportation, health disparities, food insecurity and over-criminalization to achieve a comprehensive and true reparations plan to alleviate the residue of oppression and slavery that continues to plague the African American community in San Francisco.

“We cannot forget the pain and suffering of our ancestors. Today, we stand before you as leaders of our community; we are the wildest dreams of our ancestors whose voices were silenced as slaves, and yet here I stand before you to open up the conversation on reparations,” said Supervisor Shamann Walton, “In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., and the upcoming Black History Month, I am committed and excited to work along with my fellow Black leaders, City Officials, City partners, community organizations, faith-based coalitions, and community allies to create an advisory committee to develop a true reparations plan that will address the systemic inequities that continue to exist in our African American communities and neighborhoods.”

“In 1937, the last survivor of the Middle Passage, Redoshi, enslaved under the name ‘Sally Smith,’ passed. Redoshi’s story of survival reflects the enduring struggles of our people for over 400 years,” said Board of Equalization Chair Malia Cohen, “These wrongs inflicted on Redoshi, and the generations that came after her, can be repaired and healed only through national recognition of the lingering impacts of enslavement, which still affect us today.”

“I am thankful to Supervisor Walton for his courage and bold visionary leadership.” said City College Trustee Shanell Williams, “I am committed to the Black community thriving and San Francisco addressing its own history of trauma caused by anti-blackness.”

“If we’re being honest, we need to atone for the discriminatory policing policies, federal redlining policies and under-resourced schools that targeted black communities to stifle our progress,” said Board of Education Commissioner Stevon Cook. “As a city, we’re going to right those wrongs.”



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“Reparations for the African-American community are long overdue,” said District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen, “I am committed to supporting Supervisor Walton as he takes the lead in guiding the City to make amends for historic injustices to its African-American residents.”

There is no amount of money that can compensate the horrific generation trauma that slavery has inflicted on African Americans,” said Eddy Zheng of New Breath Foundation, “Reparation is a merciful and just step towards healing. As a socially conscious Chinese American, I have a moral responsibility to stand in solidarity with my African American community.”

San Francisco’s advisory committee to create a reparations plan that will comprehensively address the inequities that exist in the African American community as a result of systemic oppression from slavery will be the first of its kind.

BACKGROUND ON CHAPTER 12Y:

<https://sfgov.org/ccsfgsa/slavery-era-disclosure-ordinance>

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