



SHAMANN WALTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****PRESS RELEASE: SUPERVISOR WALTON ANNOUNCES \$50 MILLION
BUDGET SUPPLEMENT FOR REPARATIONS*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Last Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors held a hearing and heard from the public on the draft recommendations from African American Reparations Advisory Committee (AARAC) and the Dream Keeper Initiative (DKI). Following the hearing, the Board expressed unanimous support for reparations and the Black community.

Supervisor Shamann Walton, along with Supervisors Dean Preston and Hillary Ronen, will be introducing a supplemental appropriation for \$50 million for San Francisco’s reparations work at today’s meeting. This supplement appropriates funding from the General Reserve to the Human Rights Commission to establish the Office of Reparations to implement recommendations from the final report.

“By moving forward with resources to prepare for receiving the final plan from the African American Reparations Advisory Committee, we as a Board are demonstrating a true commitment to reparations by creating tangible solutions through resources,” said Supervisor Shamann Walton. “I’d like to thank my colleagues for supporting reparations unanimously last week and thank the entire Black community and our allies for coming out to support the work of the AARAC and for standing up for what’s right.”

Black people throughout the country continue to feel the impacts of enslavement even today through structural racism, violence, discrimination, and vast disparities in health, housing, environmental outcomes, education, economics, policing, and law enforcement. The idea of reparations is not new and it was initially promised by the federal government through General William T. Sherman’s Special Field Order 15, which set aside 40 acres of land and a mule to newly freed slaves—a promise that was never fulfilled.

Here in San Francisco, Black San Franciscans have faced historical redlining, limiting where they could live, limited economic and workforce opportunities for prosperity, and vast disparities when it comes to education, housing, health outcomes, and environmental justice. Only about 6% of San Franciscans are Black, but Black residents make up about 40% of the city’s homeless population. A California study found in 2017 that San Francisco had the worst Black student achievement rate of any county in California: 19% of Black students in San Francisco passed the state’s reading test compared with 31% statewide. Black mothers have the highest mortality rates in San Francisco.



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“During the March 14th BOS hearing on the AARAC draft Reparations Plan, I was pleased to hear each member of the BOS express support for reparations being provided to Black San Franciscans,” said Eric McDonnell, Chair of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee. “Sadly, there have been similar, but unfulfilled expressions in the past. Budgets are statements of priorities. There will always be competing priorities and I believe this supplemental is an initial way for the BOS to demonstrate a commitment to prioritizing Black San Franciscans.”

“I applaud Supervisor Walton’s request for funds to anchor the important work of implementing the SF Reparations Plan,” said Tinisch Hollins, Vice-Chair of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee. “Establishing an office that can manage the ongoing effort to repair and prevent harm to Black San Franciscans requires a financial investment to establish the appropriate processes, and make sure people have access to all resources that would become available. This supplemental ask should be a compliment to the budget priorities and initiatives currently being put forth by the SF Black community.”

“Supervisor Walton’s legislation is a critical step towards making reparations a reality in San Francisco,” said District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston, a co-sponsor of the legislation. “Our City needs to move from talk to action on reparations, and I believe that’s exactly what this legislation will accomplish. It’s time for transformative change when it comes to racial justice in our City.”

“Today as San Franciscans, we have the opportunity to show up to support the Black Reparations movement and begin to address the racial disparities that our Black citizens have experienced,” said District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen, a co-sponsor of the legislation. “The recommendations from the report are a roadmap of actions that we can collectively work on to address economic empowerment, education, health, and housing.”

The budget supplemental will sit for 30 days before it is heard at the Budget & Appropriations Committee at the Board of Supervisors.

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