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***PRESS RELEASE: RALLY FOR THE FINAL REPARATIONS PLAN ***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – On Tuesday, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton, the Human Rights Commission (HRC), and the African American Reparations Advisory Committee (AARAC), community leaders and allies came together on the steps of city hall to continue to advocate for historical justice before the Committee of the Whole hearing at the Board of Supervisors.

The rally spoke to how imperative it is for the recommendations of the San Francisco Reparations Plan to be implemented in order to right the wrongs of history and address the enormous economic disparities for Black San Franciscans. Community gathered to let it be known that reparations are not merely a buzzword or a political talking point, but they represent a moral imperative, a reckoning with the past that is long overdue.

“Today we stand together, with all of our allies, to say these recommendations are just the first step towards a true reckoning! Reparations now is not a theme, but a reality that we are making happen right here in San Francisco,” said Supervisor Shamann Walton. “Now we have the resources to open the office of reparations, take these recommendations, analyze them and see which ones we can monetize and implement as soon as possible.”

“The harms perpetuated by the City and County of San Francisco on Black people are considerable and well documented in the final Reparations Plan developed by the San Francisco African American Reparations Advisory Committee,” said Eric McDonnell, Chair of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee. “Now is the time for the City leaders to take action! The Reparations Plan offers recommendations to repair the harms and put Black San Franciscans back on the paths to building generational wealth which has been denied and, in some cases, stolen. We call on the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the Human Rights Commission to build the necessary capacity to enable the implementation of the recommendations, including financial repair, rental housing and homeownership, and access to capital for small businesses. Centuries of harm should be met with centuries of repair.”

“I want to thank all of the partners, locally, and nationally, who contributed to this comprehensive process. I also want to congratulate the committee on the many hours they’ve put in the past two years to create a robust list of recommendations,” said Dr. Sheryl Evans Davis, Executive Director San Francisco
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Human Rights Commission. “The Human Rights Commission has reviewed the report, spoke with community members, and identified several recommendations that can be implemented immediately.”

At the Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Walton will introduce a resolution to accept the final reparations plan from the African American Reparations Advisory Committee with hopes to then focus on getting the office of reparations up and running to identify a funding source for reparations and execute on prioritized recommendations.

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