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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, From 1934 to 1968, the Federal Housing Administration carried out a policy of “redlining,” refusing to back loans for African Americans; this forced African Americans to live in poor, under-resourced neighborhoods and strongly hindered wealth accumulation among African Americans; and
WHEREAS, Because of low property value in previously redlined areas, landlords and investors have specifically targeted these areas for redevelopment and gentrification; as a result, to clear these areas for redevelopment, redlined areas in San Francisco are more affected by foreclosures on high-interest loans and no-fault evictions via recent laws like the Ellis Act than non-redlined areas in San Francisco; for example, folks living in Bayview Hunters Point, with a zip code of 94124, a predominantly African American neighborhood and previously redlined neighborhood, are 5 times more likely to face foreclosures than folks living in the Marina, with a zip code of 94129, a predominantly white neighborhood and not previously redlined; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The legacy of slavery continues to manifest in health disparities for the African American community; African American neighborhoods consistently have fewer healthy food options than white neighborhoods; this, in combination with predatory advertising by unhealthy food and drink companies, has led to African Americans having higher rates of diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and tooth decay among other disparities in cancer rates and mental health diseases; and
WHEREAS, In San Francisco, African Americans are 6.7 times more likely to be hospitalized by diabetes, 3 times more likely to have high blood pressure, 7 times more likely to have tuberculosis, and have an average life expectancy of ten fewer years than white San Franciscans; and

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

WHEREAS, 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; now, therefore, be it

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this reparations advisory committee will include input from the African American community on prioritizing reparations addressing education, housing, violence prevention, workforce development, economic opportunities, financial stability, small businesses, transportation, health disparities, food insecurity, and
overcriminalization to achieve a comprehensive and true reparations plan to alleviate the
residue of oppression from slavery that continues to plague the African American community
in San Francisco.
Resolution supporting a reparations plan that will comprehensively address the inequities that exist in the African American community as a result of slavery’s legacy of systemic oppression and creation of an advisory committee for the African American community.

August 10, 2020 Rules Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

August 10, 2020 Rules Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

August 18, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, Walton and Yee

Excused: 1 - Safai

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 8/18/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

______________________________
London N. Breed
Mayor

______________________________
08/28/2020
Date Approved
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

08/28/2020

Date

File No.
200149