

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 230532)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the creation of the Philadelphia Reparations Task Force to study and develop reparations proposals for Black Philadelphian Descendants of Enslaved Africans in the United States.

WHEREAS, From 1619 through 1865, the transatlantic slave trade resulted in approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants being enslaved in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Although the institution of slavery became illegal in the United States in 1865, discrimination against Black Americans continued through racist practices including Redlining, Jim Crow, and Black Codes; and

WHEREAS, In the past, the City of Philadelphia has taken steps to address its past involvement in the illegal institution of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia's Slavery Era Business/Corporate Insurance Disclosure laws were enacted in 2004 requiring City contractors to complete affidavits verifying that they have searched any and all of their company's or predecessor company records regarding investments or profits earned from slavery or slaveholder insurance policies during slavery; and

WHEREAS, Under these laws, any financial institution authorized to receive deposits from the City that has disclosed slavery policies or profits, they must provide the City with a statement of financial reparations, including a description of new financial products or programs developed to address racial disparities in its lending and investment activities; and

WHEREAS, Black Philadelphians, specifically those descended from Enslaved Africans continue to suffer extraordinary disparities in economic, educational, housing, and healthcare outcomes as a result of the illegal institution of slavery. Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, at a staggering 30.8%, Black Philadelphians had a poverty rate more than twice that of non-Hispanic White Philadelphians; and

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WHEREAS, Although more than 40% of Philadelphia's residents are Black, only 6% of the City's businesses are Black-owned; and

WHEREAS, Multiple City and State level Reparations Task Forces and Commissions have been established across the United States to examine the distribution of reparations to the descendants of Enslaved Africans, including California, New Jersey, Amherst, MA, Willington, DE, Chicago, IL and Detroit, MI; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby authorizes the creation of the Philadelphia Reparations Task Force to study and develop reparations proposals for Black Philadelphian Descendants of Enslaved Africans in the United States.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty second of June, 2023.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Gauthier and Brooks

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Gauthier, Brooks, Gilmore Richardson,
Vaughn, Squilla, Bass, Driscoll, Phillips and Thomas