

RESOLUTION **RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the U.S. and the colonies that became the U.S. from 1619 to 1865; and

WHEREAS, the institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the U.S. government from 1789 to 1865; and

WHEREAS, the slavery that took place in the U.S. constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of African and African Americans' life, liberty, citizenship rights, cultural heritage, and compensation for their contributions and labor; and

WHEREAS, even after 1865, the U.S. government continued to perpetuate, condone, and profit from practices that brutalized and disadvantaged African Americans at the federal, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, policies like American chattel slavery, Black Codes, convict leasing, Jim Crow segregation, redlining, and racial discrimination have contributed to intergenerational harm to African Americans that continues today; and

WHEREAS, African Americans continue to suffer economic, educational, and health hardships as a result of historic and continued discrimination, including the incarceration of approximately 1,000,000 Black people; an unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate; and, an average of less than 1/16 of the wealth of white families; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2017, Representative John Conyers originally introduced House of Representatives (H.R.) 40 to establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act to examine slavery and discrimination in the U.S. from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies, including reparations; and

WHEREAS, there is federal precedent for the U.S. government to provide reparations to communities, including the millions of dollars provided to many Native American tribes for illegal land seizures that fostered the expansion of the U.S., and the compensation of \$20,000 to surviving Japanese Americans and others who were interned during World War II; and

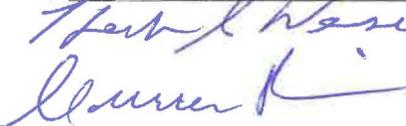
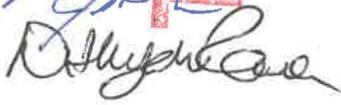
WHEREAS, H.R. 40 will create a framework for a national discussion on the enduring impact of slavery and discrimination on the lives of African Americans, and begin a process for the U.S. government to formally acknowledge and make amends for the harm, trauma, disenfranchisement, oppression, racial segregation, and government-supported denial of humanity to African Americans for more than 400 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-22 federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 40 (Jackson Lee) to establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act to evaluate the impacts of slavery and discrimination on the social, political, and economic life of African Americans, and make recommendations to repair those impacts.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

MAY 27 2022

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