

Apologizing for Slavery of African Americans and Calling for Reparations and Reconciliation

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2011, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors apologizes for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans; *and*

WHEREAS, we recognize Juneteenth, also known as **Freedom Day** or **Emancipation Day**, honoring African American heritage by commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery; *and*

WHEREAS, African Americans were enslaved in this country for centuries, subject to cruelty, brutality, the indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage and torn apart after family members were sold separately; *and*

WHEREAS, acknowledging not only the shameful history of slavery but the racial segregation of the "separate but equal" Jim Crow era and the lingering aftereffect of slavery including the enormous damage and loss, both tangible and intangible and the loss of dignity and liberty; *and*

WHEREAS, these atrocities resembled no other form of involuntary servitude, as Africans were captured and sold at auctions as chattel, like inanimate property or animals; *and*

WHEREAS, the deep seated problems caused by the continuing legacy of racism against African Americans that began with slavery and perpetuating disparities and injustices that plague our Nation as a result of the dehumanization of an entire race; *and*

WHEREAS, acknowledging systemic discrimination, social and economic inequality and laws permitting such injustice to induce a growing African American underclass, undereducated, unemployed and marginalized population, as black males make up a majority of the prison population and HIV/AIDS disproportionately impacts black women; *and*

WHEREAS, identifying these grave injustices in order to promote healing and reconciliation and calling for economic reparations through programs including health, education, employment and housing to benefit African Americans; *and*

WHEREAS, the legacy of African Americans is interwoven with the very fabric of democracy and freedom of the United States and propagation of the ideals of liberty, justice and democracy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Alameda County Board of Supervisors, State of California, has taken the lead in expressing appropriate remorse for slavery and encourages the State legislature to consider a similar resolution and is recommitting to bringing about an end to racial prejudices, disparities and injustices from our society; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors strongly encourages the United States government through the office of President Barack Obama to issue a formal apology to African Americans.

Nate Miley, President
Supervisor, Fourth District

Keith Carson, Vice President
Supervisor, Fifth District

Scott Haggerty
Supervisor, First District

Approved as to Form
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By  _____

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