



# Board of Supervisors

Nathan A. Miley  
Supervisor, District 4

Agenda Item # \_\_\_\_\_ October 6, 2020

September 25, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Alameda  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, Ca. 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors seeking the support of community reparations for African Americans**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors seeking the support of community reparations for African Americans.

## **DISCUSSION:**

On June 7, 2011, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. R-2011-177 to formally apologize for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans. Following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Oscar Grant and many other African Americans, it remains abundantly clear that localities must do more to establish community reparations.

African Americans have historically faced the perpetuation of disparities beginning with slavery and other injustices that plagued much of our nation as a result of the dehumanization of an entire race. Like many individuals of color, African Americans experience discrimination and face implicit bias in many aspects of their day-to-day lives. African Americans remain economically and educationally disadvantaged and are often unable to obtain homeownership nor build generational wealth. Many African Americans have been systematically excluded from historic and present private economic development and community investments and, therefore,

black business owners have not received the benefits of these investments. Unable to fully participate in the local job market, African Americans experience high unemployment rates and reduced opportunities which further push families into poverty.

Local, state and federal governments have a responsibility to adopt programs, policies, and funding to address community reparations in order to uphold the ideals of liberty, justice, and democracy. Policymakers share in this responsibility to address the legislative, social, and economic inequities faced by African Americans. The County of Alameda, if not directly, has implicitly sanctioned discriminatory practices under the color of law that disenfranchised African Americans.

As a first step to better address the needs of African Americans, Supervisor Carson and I respectfully request that this Board approve a resolution in support of community reparations for African Americans.

**FINANCING:**

There is no net increase in County cost.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate Miley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nate Miley  
Supervisor, District 4

Cc: Susan Muranishi, County Administrator  
Donna Ziegler, County Counsel  
Melissa Wilk, Auditor-Controller

**COUNTY OF ALAMEDA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION NO. R-2020-412**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF  
COMMUNITY REPARATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**WHEREAS**, on June 7, 2011, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. R-2011-177 to formally apologize for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors reaffirms the need for community reparations for African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have historically faced the perpetuation of disparities beginning with slavery and other injustices that plagued much of our nation as a result of the dehumanization of an entire race; and

**WHEREAS**, these disparities have established widespread systemic discrimination, social and economic inequality and laws permitting such injustice to occur; and

**WHEREAS**, these practices helped to generationally limit the widespread economic and social empowerment of African Americans, while restricting or neglecting education and employment access; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have faced housing discrimination and were disproportionately displaced or insufficiently housed by government housing policies; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have been forced to reside in, adjacent to, or near environmentally unsafe zones and other toxic sites that negatively impact their health; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have been denied access to home ownership through racist practices in the private realty market, including redlining, steering, blockbusting, denial of mortgages, and gentrification; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have been systematically excluded from historic and present private economic development and community investments and, therefore, black business owners have not received the benefits of these investments; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have not been able to fully participate in the local job market resulting in high unemployment rates and reduced opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans continue to be denied admission at every level of education and experience discriminatory disciplinary practices which leads to lower graduation rates; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have disproportionately suffered from the isolation of food deserts and lack access to critical services such as childcare; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans historically and presently receive insufficient, if not damaging, health care as exemplified by the disproportionate morbidities and mortality rates that result from the generational trauma of systemic racism; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans experience discriminatory treatment by medical professionals, and discriminatory medical practices such as denial of adequate testing, denial of preventative and curative procedures and an overall lack of investment in health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have been unjustly targeted by law enforcement and the criminal justice system, resulting in disproportionate incarceration rates and exclusion from full participation in the benefits of citizenship that include voting, employment, housing and health care; and

**WHEREAS**, local, state and federal governments have a responsibility to adopt programs, policies, and funding to address community reparations in order to uphold the ideals of liberty, justice, and democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Alameda shares in this responsibility to address the legislative, social, and economic inequities faced by African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Alameda, if not directly, has implicitly sanctioned discriminatory practices under the color of law that disenfranchised African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Alameda, State of California, calls on all cities, law enforcement agencies, organizations, institutions and individuals across the country that have advanced and benefitted from racial inequity to join us in apologizing for our shared role and complacency and we urgently call for them to combat racism and discrimination by initiating policy and providing funding for community reparations; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED**, on October 6, 2020, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, State of California, hereby apologizes and expresses remorse for the slavery, segregation, and discrimination of African Americans and further pledges to address the legislative, social, and economic inequities faced by African Americans; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, The County of Alameda shall develop an action plan to manifest this pledge into a reality.

The FOREGOING was PASSED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Alameda County this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Carson, Chan, Haggerty, Miley & President Valle

NOES: None

EXCUSED: None

ABSTAINED: None



Richard Valle  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

Anika Campbell-Belton  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

BY: RBailey, Deputy

APPROVE AS TO FORM:  
DONNA R. ZIEGLER, COUNTY COUNSEL

BY: Don Z