
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed, Mayor

The seal of the City and County of San Francisco is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield. The shield is supported by two figures: a miner on the left and a sailor on the right. Below the shield is a banner with the Latin motto "EUREKA". The outer ring of the seal contains the text "SEAL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO".

African American Reparations

Advisory Committee

Draft Meeting Transcription

July 12, 2021

5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Commission Secretary at 415-252-2500
Agenda and other information are available on the HRC website: www.sfgov.org/sfhumanrights

Meeting Called to Order 5:30 pm

Brittini Chicuata 0:18

Good evening, everyone. I hope you're having a wonderful Monday. I would like to call this meeting to order. So welcome to the July 12 2021 meeting of the African American reparations Advisory Committee. I want to take a moment to thank Amelia Martinez-Bankhead, Cathy Mulkey Meyer and Juell Stewart for supporting this committee. Thank you so much. Now, I'd like to invite one of our advisory committee advisory committee members to please volunteer and read the Ramaytush Ohlone land acknowledgement, which will be posted in the chat for you. Can I get a volunteer? I'll read it. Unless I see Mr. McConnell.

Brittini Chicuata 1:09

raise his hand Yeah, please. Okay.

Anietie Ekanem 1:13

We acknowledge that we are the unseeded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, the original inhabitants of the San Francisco peninsula. As the Indigenous stewards of this land, and in accordance with their tradition. The Ramaytush Ohlone have never seated last nor forgotten their responsibilities as a caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. as guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional home that we wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of Ramaytush community, and by affirming their sovereign rights as far as peoples.

Brittini Chicuata 2:00

Thank you so much, and eta. So our condition secretary is Juell Stewart Juell Stewart. Do you have any announcements?

Juell Stewart 2:12

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency and so protect board members, city employees, colleagues and the public, the Board of Supervisors chamber committee rooms and meeting rooms are only open to elected officials and support staff. reparations advisory committee members will continue to participate in the meeting remotely. This precaution is taken in pursuance of the various local and state orders declarations of directives. Committee members will attend the meeting through video conference and participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were physically present. Public comment will be available on each item on this agenda. For those who are calling in on a phone please mute yourself while you're not speaking. Anyone who is not appointed by the board of supervisors to the reparations advisory committee will have their video and chat disable public

comment will be two minutes for each speaker, please use the raise hand icon at the bottom of the screen to indicate you would like to speak.

Brittni Chicuata 3:08

Thank you Juell Stewart. Please call the first item on the agenda. Madam Chair, I have item before we have that, please.

Reverend. Amos Brown:

This is Reverend Brown speaking.

Brittni Chicuata: Sorry, go ahead, Reverend Brown.

Reverend Brown 3:22

I will just suggest that we will consider since we are about reparations for Black people. That's what the caption is. We would also expect the historical fact. Yeah, it was Black people who built the economy. I'm just talking about San Francisco, where we were residing was the company was the property that we're talking about.

Dr. Sheryl Davis 3:59

And Reverend Brown I do want to apologize because you did ask for that last time. So we will make sure to especially for this committee to make sure that we do an acknowledgement of the contributions of Black people and to center that as a part of this. So I know that we did the land acknowledgments. I want to apologize, that was my bad and we will make sure to center and prioritize Black. Black experiences Black history as a part of starting and laying the foundation for this meeting. So thank you for that reminder, and I apologize for that. Thank you. Thank you. We will do that next time. So the item on the agenda, please.

1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS (Action Item)

Present: James Lance Taylor, Eric McDonnell, Reverend. Amos Brown, Gloria Berry, Daniel Landry, Starr Williams, Shakeyla O'Cain, Yolanda Harris, Tiffany Walker-Carter, Laticia Erving, Anietie Ekanem, Omerede Hamilton

Absent: Tinisch Hollins, Gwendolyn Brown, (arrived later in the meeting and noted), Nikcole Cunningham

12 members present, quorum achieved, meeting is called to order.

Juell Stewart 6:31

Thank you, committee members, we have quorum and the meeting can be called to order. There's one housekeeping item, I've created a Google form for the advisory committee members to record their contact

information. And Cathy will post a link in the chat. Thank you. And so that, just to tell you what that's for. Everybody will be given a copy of Dr. Ted Johnson's book. And there will be subsequent times where we need to mail things to you as well. So if you could please complete that survey and I will reach out to anyone who hasn't. Who hasn't filled it out. Thank you Would you please call it the second item on the agenda? Sure.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - Public Comment on Items not on the agenda. (Discussion Item)

Members of the public may address the Advisory Committee on matters that are within the Reparations jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

With any members of public like to comment on items, not on today's agenda, please use the raise hand symbol at the bottom of the screen to indicate you would like to speak.

Juell Stewart 7:35

I'm seeing I'm not seeing any, anyone. Volunteer any additions so the to the agenda so that you have your own buddy? We do Okay. Hold on. Okay, can Okay, Mike, Michael Thompson, would you like to speak? Yes. Yes, ma'am. Thank

Public Comment 8:04

you. Um, well, this is off of subject of reparations. I'm actually speaking in regards to redevelopment and housing that's taking place the housing issues that we're experiencing, are all over everywhere. So from Fillmore to Hunters Point to Sunnydale to Alemany, right. We're all experiencing the same things. We have these degree developers coming in here. And they are just misleading us there Ms. directing us. They are abusing us. They're neglecting us. They have us living in habit ugly. And this has been allowed. Now I don't know what you all can do. But we need some help. Because this got this can't be this can't happen like this. We understand that it's a redevelopment we get it. So let's How about preparing the people for redevelopment an easy transition opposed to abusing us neglectus and allowing it we got to stop this. This is not okay. I just had someone call me a tenant were her whole house was flooded. And her and her children are sitting outside in the car and needed to have a hotel and she contacted related management. They told her they could they can put on another unit. They couldn't put her in a hotel. So I reached out and I said well hey come to my house. You could stay in my house. But guess what, they tried to put me out too, because I'm up here helping people. And so they every day I just got an email from their lawyer threatening me to sign a document from 2017 when they weren't even the redevelopment people appeared they weren't even

the overseers up here. So because I want fraudulent elite sign something, they're gonna continue to harass me because I'm up here helping my people and trying to help them through this. They're going to continue to harass me and the more I reach out to people The more I say something, everyone acts as if it is not happening and is not existing. And it is existing. We all know it exists, but it needs to stop. We can sit here and talk about reparations. But what are we going to do on these people? Because this is what I'm saying we got elderly day out here abused and not just the agency abusing Black people. We got our elders Sydney's home, and the people I one lady, 108 years old. They're all weak during the pandemic, nobody did nothing. Everybody. Thank you, but I just want to make sure you guys know what's going on. Here. I want to make sure you guys know what's going on around here. Okay, that's all I know what's going on. But I'm gonna still continue to be out here. Okay, I get it. Thank you very much. Yeah.

Juell Stewart 10:51

Thank you. And we appreciate your comment. And I just want to reiterate that the comments are held for two minutes. So that's why I cut her off, but it is duly noted. Thank you. Are there any other members of the public who would like to testify? Dr. Brown, I see you have your hand up.

Cathy Mulkey Meyer 11:13

I see two members of the public who would like to participate in public comment. The first is

Juell Stewart 11:20

for some reason I can't see though. Okay. I'm sorry. You Well, I'd see Anthony, your bandwidth is, is running low. Okay. network bandwidth. Sorry. Okay. Oh, you're able Are you Jamil? Can you hear us? Can you? Can y'all hear me? Yeah.

Jamil 11:51

And I like to just, you know, encourage you all, you know, you know, give you everyone that you just, you know, the best of spirits to make the best decisions for us. I encourage you, and I bless you. And I to speak to my ECOWAS point, I just think we need more community engagement, because I'm gonna put them on blast. It's not nothing to blast them about. But there are people on the panel that have educated me about redevelopment. That can be very helpful. And just a tip or two, or you know, just the knowledge that they have from a long time experience. You know, there are people in their teachers and friends on this panel that can help, you know, that can help to have knowledge in this they got 20 years experience battling with

this, so we just need more community engagement. That's all. Thank you.

Cathy

Now I see to Teschell Heron.

Teschell

Hi, can you hear me?

Cathy

Yes. Thank you.

Teschell

Hi. First, thank you all for taking on this.

Unknown Speaker 13:01

You're muted Teschell.

Teschell

Okay. Okay. Can you hear me now?

Cathy

Yes, I'm going to restart the clock.

Teschell

Okay. Thank you all for taking on this committee. I want to speak on behalf of all Black educators in San Francisco and say, if reparations is given to schools, please make sure there's representation in the school. I can't be the only LeBron James at every 19 schools in San Francisco. I need a little bit more deliberate speed when it comes to ensuring equity insurance. And like Rico said not learning about Shakespeare but learning about those Black moors. So if reparations is given to the schools, make sure we have representation in the schools heavily because being Black is the best thing on earth, but our children won't believe it unless they see it. So thank you for your services. And I hope you take my words to heart.

Cathy 14:09

Thank you. Now I'd like to welcome Sabrina Smith. Sabrina, you're muted.

Sabrina

You know what? I did not raise my hand. I'm sorry. Thank you.

Cathy

Um, I would like to welcome Darlene Roberts. Darlene you're muted.

Darlene

Okay. I hope there's no visual on me. Oh, please don't say there's a visual.

Darlene Roberts 15:01

Darlene Roberts, Fillmore Jazz Ambassadors, I'm calling to introduce myself. We are gases, billions, and professional musicians. We are, we are dedicated to commemorating 150 years of jazz in San Francisco. Most people aren't aware of it incubated in Harlem on the west, also the Fillmore jazz era, we have gotten a tiny little grant to go into the schools to teach jazz to our kids 60% of which are learning below grade level. And we know that jazz and in our music program will be perfect for the problem that these kids are having, once they realize the history that they have in this community. I'm sure that it will inspire them to learn more about who they are, and how it became a mystery to them. But it's a mind blower really for the whole panel to find out that there's so many years of jazz history that none of us knew about. And I would love to tell you more whenever you give me the time, thank you for this opportunity to introduce film with dance ambassadors.

Cathy

Thank you, um, I see Stand in Peace. Is that Shervon?

Shervon 16:36

Yes, it is. Thank you so much. I'm so proud to watch you guys on the screen. And just know that I appreciate you. Um, as you guys are preparing the different topics and agendas, there are two things that I would like to definitely add two things to think about. That's my granddaughter in the background. One is that I would like to stand in solidarity with my system is mica. Because I'm development continues to have master plans for the public housing and additional open land that Black people are not being thought of, nor have I, the land could be used about bringing us back into the communities without affecting the landscape of San Francisco's properties. But addressing the public housing in particular, Alice Griffin's Potrero Hill, double Rocky, I was referred to Hunters Point patrol here in sunny do, they can we look at that allocation of how they're doing their master plan. And that is the name. The second thing is actually looking at historical organizations, both private and public and in government, on how they benefited off the harms done to African Americans, and possibly do some Rep. restorative justice, practices and policies that also addresses how we can address that and in particular, is wood, food for school for children. They were gifted

that land over 200, over 100 years ago, and they speak about how they were given the land and how they've done some wonderful work with them. They're nothing but harmless, but Black and Brown. So please just use that. If you can use that as your perspective.

Cathy 18:15

Thank you, Shervon. Sabrina, your hand is raised still. Do you have a comment to make? I do see Jon Henry. Welcome.

Jon Henry 18:31

Hello, thank you, everybody. Just want to make sure that the reparation committee looks at definitely given our community making sure that the cash for the community is there, as well as the tax breaks. I think that is big for tax assessment on home ownership, personal payroll taxes and business taxes for the community. When you look at reparations, I think that'll be a great way to kind of close the wealth gap that's needed for businesses and equity. So definitely, those are the two areas that are like the reparation communities look at. How do we alleviate those taxes for home ownership and businesses in San Francisco?

Cathy

Thank you. I see Catherine Campbell. You're muted. Okay, Could someone Can you all hear me? I can hear you now.

Catherine Campbell 19:29

Hi, it's good to see everyone here. Some of you I know your faces and some I don't. But in some of you may know me or may have heard of me. I am a Black Panther Party alumni member and in October, we're going to have our 55th anniversary of the Black Panther Party but the theme is going to be the youth and the reason why we're focusing on the youth this year. is because we had, our office was on Fillmore, where the Heritage Center is, or near there. And some of you know the story. And some of you don't, but to dispel some of the myths about the party, but not only that, to show you, you know, just what we did what we were doing for the youth at the, at the time, and also to give the youth a platform, so that they can have a voice, you know, and bring us all together, because I know we do a lot of adult things and activities around there. But we want to also let the youth know that they're, you know, this is their community also. And that it can be designed and created the way they want to see it, and we want to support them on it. You know, because that's what the love is about, you know, it's about us families, Black families in particular coming together, because we all we know, all too well, what happened in the film war, and you know, with the Jonestown and also the Black Panthers being there, to promote the 10 point platforming program, the programs that survive our community, the survival programs, so

and we, we just want to let people know that, you know, you know, there's some of you here that may have sent your children to the breakfast program. But that wasn't the only thing that they participated in, we have different sites around San Francisco, but the media really, you know, was giving us a bad rap at the at the time. And, you know, years and years later, they give us an apology, the FBI and CIA and COINTELPRO for coming in our community, and just trying to break our families up and making us look as if we're, we're militant, and we're, we're bad, and we're negative and all the negative things that go with it, which dispelled us and expelled us from even acquiring any equity, and spreading us out and sending us you know, asunder just a different places when we want to stay right there in the community. And one of the things that, another thing that and I'll be, I'll be really quick about this, the reason why we want to do this also is because we know that there's elders in the community. And we don't want that gap between the, the youth and the elders, we want to support each other. And we want to keep that. So the different workshops and things that we're going to do at that 55th, we want everyone new all and everyone to come together. For this. It's not about wearing the Black uniforms, and the TAM or anything like that. We went through that in the 60s. But it's to let people know that, you know, we are all still here, we're all still here and still want to survive. We still want equity in the community. We still want, you know, businesses in the community. And we want to show the world that yes, this is a Black community, you know, and that when you come here, you tourists that come here for the you know, to the city that are on these big buses to see, you know, you can see us in action, because we are still here, we want to make sure that you know, the youth know that they have a right to still be here. They don't have.

Cathy 23:25

Thank you, Ms. Campbell, we would like to allow some other folks to participate in public comment. I see Latoya Pitcher logged in two times. So can you please announce your name?

Latoya Pitcher 23:46

Hello, can you hear me? Yes. Thank you. I would like to ask that this taskforce. Maybe use the reparations or when you're considering how the reparations are used if you get to that point, to fund the work that is necessary to make policy changes that adversely impact Blacks and employment, education, housing, health and wellness, for example, more policies like the carrying neck, but also policies to address things like prop 209, where you can intentionally recruit Black people, but you cannot intentionally hire Black people. So it seems like it's a loophole and also invest in people in a way that crazy scoring and ratios financial instruments that have historically and

to this very day redlined Black folks out of certain communities and neighborhoods, including what happened to Mary Ellen Pleasant, and the Pacific Heights neighbor. You're muted.

Latoya 24:58

Yes, I also stated that I would like for there to be an effort with regards to balancing how the credit scoring system is done if it can be done with these funds or with this last word differently than other people as well instruments doing any current financial instruments that are on record with the city that have clauses such as you cannot sell to a Black person or to restore the damage that has been done to the descendants of Mary Ellen Pleasant. Thank you. Um, I see Alicia Mayo. Alicia, it looks like you're muted. There you go.

Alicia Mayo 25:59

Hello, everyone. I just want to ask the committee to consider having a public ceremony for the elders who are still living. I tried to explain what is happening to my grandmother with the reparations committee. And she was sitting in disbelief. Like, as I tried to explain it to her that, you know, something great is happening for Black San Francisco's Mama.

Reverend. Brown 26:30

Volume is not right, Madam Chair. And she is experiencing early signs of dementia.

Alicia 26:36

But she could understand part of what I was saying. And she said in disbelief, and then she tried to call an aunt in Mississippi about it to try and share the news. And I just felt like she and other seniors who are still with volume is not right.

Cathy 26:59

Ms. Mayo could you increase your volume, we can't hear you.

Alicia 27:06

Everything that they went through and experienced in some way or another if we could just have a ceremony dedicated to just them. And that's all that's my only ask I trusted all of you who will make great decisions and do great work as a part of this committee. Thank you.

Cathy 27:28

Thank you. Um, I do see Gregory Ledbetter's hand raised. Gregory? Okay it was lowered. It was lowered. Okay. And then I do see Latoya

Pitcher's hand raised. Latoya already participated in public comment on this item. Larry Martin. Welcome.

Larry Martin 28:16

Yes, Hello, can you hear me? Yes, thank you. I just, I just quickly want to share that, you know, I'm, I'm a recovery coach, and a college student, I City College. And I just wanted to share quickly that I'm not just trying to keep it simple with my message, you know, messages about unity and Black love, You don't say. So I truly believe in order for us to deal with the external forces that that we are confronted as a people here in San Francisco on the East Coast, West Coast, in the south, wherever we may be, we must come together as a people eliminate all the division and all the self hatred that we have in us as a people, you know, so that's, you know, that's my main issue, my main concern, once we eradicate that, we'd be in a better position to deal with the forces. Racist forces. That's that that was what I want to see as you know, out of this world, so that's my main, you know, my, that's my main job. That's my main concern. And I'm in college right now. And, you know, I just, that's my message to the young and the old, you know, what I'm saying is to bring us closer together. And so we can start loving one another, and stop hating on one another. And we after we do that, we have a sense of unity, then we can deal with the forces in a better in a better way. You see, I'm saying so that's my message. Thanks for letting me share it. Thank y'all for B for having the seat and being selected to the seat. You know, so I just hope that y'all analyze and do what's necessary for us as a people. Thanks for letting me share.

Cathy 30:06

Thank you. And now I'd like to welcome Ms. Phelicia Jones.

Phelicia Jones

Thank you. Good evening, everybody. And as it was said before, you guys are all looking good. But you know, for me, I just have to go back to what Melissa has said. And I wanted to state and you know, as we move along this process, this process is going to be at least two to three years. And my concern is, you know, Black folks is suffering right now. And even though that we do need, you know, the taskforce is like, Okay, what are we going to do? And how are we going to address the suffering of Black San Franciscans right now, and I don't know, it within this taskforce, if you guys can come up with an advocacy committee to address you know, present issues as you move along in the task force. But we cannot just stand by with all of this, you know, knowledge right here on the task force. And we have people coming on saying, you know, families are out there, sleeping in their cars. And, you know, no one can make a phone call to make

something happen. I just believe that as a unity, and seeking equity, that we must begin to address some of the issues right now. And again, like I said, I'm wishing the best for you, I'm praying the best for you. But also in the forefront of my mind. This is a long process. And there, there has to be some things that are going to be done along the process, and not just wait to the end of the process, where we can reap the fruits of your labor. Thank you.

Cathy

Thank you. I see someone under a login LaToya Pitcher, but we have two folks logged in with that name. So I'm asking you, if you would like to do public comment, please announce your name.

Yolanda Williams 32:09

My name is Yolanda Williams, otherwise coming up this Latoya. But nonetheless, I'm very pleased to hear what Ms. Campbell stated. And I echo the fact that many of our Black leaders and organizations such as the Black Panthers, survivors, maybe and one from Jonestown, have been labeled inappropriately. And even in city positions, such as in the police academy in San Francisco, we hear from many who are in the academy, that they are constantly being told that the Black Panthers and other people were militant, and they really were being deceptive with potential officers. And we have to be a part of everything when it comes to educating people about our culture. And if we're not there, it should not be discussed. That's all I have to say. And I hope that you will continue to support our efforts in reparations. And thank you for doing what you're doing. Thank you.

Cathy 33:13

I would like to call Cheryl Thornton.

Cheryl Thornton

Hi, this is Cheryl Thornton. My comment is how do we reach outreach to the greater Black population in San Francisco, so many people don't really know about what's going on with reparations. And in this meeting right here and when it is, um, and also, has working groups been discussed, like so to get people involved at the grassroots level to help with the reparations. That's my comments.

Cathy 33:59

Thank you. Are there any other members of the public who would like to participate in public comments, please use the raise hand icon or Q&A feature. I do see a comment from the Q&A feature says Angela, wondering if I can share a thought that would be considered for the panel to address an attitude agenda item at the next meeting. I have

a couple of thoughts, but I'm not prepared to speak on it today. Please, yes, you can. I will put my email in the chat and you could email me or you could email my colleague Juell Stewart, we'll put our emails in the chat and you can email us. Thank you for that comment. If there are any other members of the public who would like to participate in public comment, please use the raise hand icon. Okay, I don't see anyone and I just want to note for the public record that member Gwendolyn Brown is here and now we will Turn it over to Dr. Reverend Amos Brown.

Reverend Brown 35:05

Madam Chair, my fellow colleagues could maybe just say this from the heart. I've voiced sentiment that was expressed in part by Ms. Phelicia Jones. My prayer and hope is that we will not be set up to make this a paralysis of analysis and come up with a document that will be placed on the shelf and collect dust. I for one, I'm not gonna speak for others interested in a whole lot of talk about the problem. We know what the problem is, is this society knows what the problem is. My concern is that this taskforce, this advisory committee should advise the city that we don't need no two years to study what has happened to Black folks in this town, we don't need two years to be told we could do it in a few months. So I hope that the committee would take this under advisement, don't let them set us up for another out migration report. Another Blue Book, another red book. And I must say, presently, to who internally, we need to look at ourselves when you look in the mirror as a community. And some of us are complicit with. Just take, for instance, the problem housing. At this point, I don't want to embarrass him about it. But I know too many of these developments, where you have, for example, 212 units. And 70% of the development that was developed by the blood, sweat and tears of Black folks, is now 70%. Asian. I'm not bashing anyone else. I'm not nationalistic. I'm just talking about fairness, parity, and justice. And we can address these hard issues. We are a farce as a taskforce on reparations, reparations come with two wings, external responsibility and internal responsibility. Someone else mentioned that heritage is building over there. All of us in the village know what's been happening. And how this city has battered around on the umbrella of a so called specious suit that's been fired by a certain person to keep Black folks from internally having ownership of that building. So please, please, please critically hear what Ms. Phelicia Jones said. We don't need no two years. To study us. We know the problem is, what are we gonna do about?

3. ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 1, 2021, MEETING TRANSCRIPTION (*Action Item*)

Reverendiew and anticipated adoption of transcription of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee's June 1, 2021, meeting.

Public Comment

Juell Stewart 38:28

Thank you, Reverend Brown. Are there any other members of the public who would like to provide testimony? Seeing none, the testimony is now closed. We'll move directly to item number three, adoption of the June 1, 2021, meeting transcription.

Brittni Chicuata 38:50

The transcription from the June 1st meeting will be distributed electronically. The meeting video excuse me, it's also available on the HRC website, and committee members. We wanted to know if you have any edits. I've also heard from a committee member that they'd like for us to consider linking the meeting notes in the agenda. So we'll talk about that and see if we can do that to make things a little bit more accessible going forward. I move to adopt the minutes. Second thing you will hold that I think we need to first check and see if we have public comment.

Juell Stewart 39:34

Yes. All right. Sorry. Are there any members of the public here to testify on this item? Okay, seeing none, the public testimony is now closed. I'll hand it over to you.

Brittni Chicuata 39:53

Okay, thank you. So we have our motion in our second Juell Stewart. Would you please call roll to approve the meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion to adopt minutes as submitted, 1st Gloria Berry, 2nd Eric McDonnell

Affirmative: James Lance Taylor, Eric McDonnell, Reverend. Amos Brown,
Gloria Berry, Daniel Landry, Shakeyla O'Cain, Starr Williams,
Gwendolyn Brown, Yolanda Harris, Tiffany Walker-Carter, Laticia Erving, Anietie Ekanem, Omerede Hamilton

Absent: Tinisch Hollins, Nikcole Cunningham
13 votes to accept transcription as submitted.

Brittni Chicuata 41:52

Thank you. And I see a committee member with their hand raised.

Tiffany 41:59

Yeah, I wanted to know if we can in this body if it's necessary, and if it's not okay. But if it is, if we could add to the agenda, to adopt the agenda, to have that be a vote to adopt the agenda for today, not just the meeting minutes, it will be a standing agenda item. So that whenever we have these meetings, we can vote on whether we want to amend or accept the agenda or if that's not necessary for this body.

Brittini Chicuata 42:31

Unfortunately, we have to publish the meeting agenda two days ahead of time, so we can't do that on the fly. But if you have edited an agenda before it's publicly posted, and we can edit it beforehand, but we can't amend the agenda once it's been posted to the public.

Brittini Chicuata 42:49

Thank you. Juell Stewart, would you call the next item, please?

4. GUEST INTRODUCTION: DR. TED JOHNSON, BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (Discussion Item) Dr. Johnson will give us an introduction and brief overview of his work Public Comment

Juell Stewart 42:56

The fourth item on the agenda is our guest, Dr. Ted Johnson from the Brennan Center of Justice. Brittney Chicuata will introduce Dr. Johnson.

Brittini Chicuata 43:07

I don't need to take too much time, I just want to give the floor to Dr. Johnson, who will, as mentioned you all will be receiving his book. But we want to thank you so much for joining us this evening. And look forward to your presentation. Dr. Johnson.

Dr. Ted Johnson [Guest Speaker] 43:24

Excellent. And thank you all for inviting me in. It's been a pleasure actually listen to some of the comments from concerned citizens about the work this committee is doing, as well as the challenges that Black folks in San Francisco are facing. And so what I don't want to do is just run through the topic of my book, and then and, you know, you guys will receive it, so you'll be able to read it. But I do want to talk about how some of the themes in the book intersect directly with the work this committee is doing around reparations. And I want to start sort of in a place just before the books argument takes hold, and then walk into it. And then sort of I'll take a breath, and we can have some q&a or a quick conversation about it.

The first point I want to draw your attention to is that the issue of reparations in the United States is not an issue of morality, when it comes to public policy. And I'm not saying that it's not a moral issue. It absolutely is. But I'm saying that when governments consider these kinds of issues, they don't ask the moral question, is it the morally correct thing to do? The answer's yes let's do it. If the answer's no, let's not do it. Governments are controlled by their interests. They do what is in their interest to do when the United States was founded. It was founded on this idea that we're all created equal, that we all had these unalienable rights, and yet they enslaved the Black people. At the time they said these words, because at the time, the men with power decided that it was in the nation's interest to establish the union, even if it meant it had to ignore the institution of slavery to do so. 90 years later, when Lincoln is President and the union breaks up over the issue of slavery, Lincoln decided it was in the issue. It was in the interest of the nation to go to war, to keep the union and to abolish slavery. And in the course of doing so, as the only way of bringing the union back together, it was not about them, or the moral decision about the humanity and dignity of Black people wasn't that Lincoln had an epiphany and suddenly recognized that all these enslaved Black people were deserving of their dignity.

It was that the nation's interest demanded that the those in power make particular decisions to keep the union intact, in order to serve the nation's interest, its security, its economic stability, etc. and abolishing slavery was the byproduct of the nation's interest. And so when the case is made to the city of San Francisco, when the case is made to the federal government about the issue of reparations, if the case is only about the moral argument for why reparations need to be paid out, then it will not get as far as we would like it to go. Because we will have to show how it is in the nation's interest for Reparations to be executed, implemented, and not just make the moral argument. Okay, so that's point number one. Point number two is right now and for the last several congresses, there's been a bill proposed HR40, to have the federal government study the issue of reparations, that's all it's asking for is a study and this in this house and the Congress, in the house in this Congress passed the bill. But of course, the Senate is not going to likely take it up. Because it's a very divisive, vicious issue, as we well know. Here's the thing, the to establish the commission, you don't actually have to go to Congress to get permission to do that. When President Truman established the President's Commission on civil rights that led to the NAACP and other civil rights activist groups to show him how Black veterans were returning from World War Two and being lynched sometimes in

uniform when they were showing him how housing segregation, employment discrimination, and all sorts of racism were running rampant across the country. And they turned the report in and 47 the next year, Truman desegregated the military and desegregated the federal workforce, largely in part due to the findings of the president Presidential Commission he established in 46, and 19.

In the 1960s, President Lyndon Johnson established the Kerner Commission with the presidential order, this is a presidential commission to study why was that so many riots and protests were happening in cities across America. And we know it's because of the housing discrimination, employment discrimination, and rampant racism that was still happening in the country. So if this country were serious about the question of reparations, they would not punt the issue and tell Congress to vote on it, until the house to vote on the Senate to vote on it, have them go through reconciliation, and then have the president do a signing ceremony, the President would simply establish the commission to do the studying that this congressional bill is supposed to do. The reason it has not happened, it is because neither of the parties sees it in their political interest to sign to put forward a President's Commission on reparations. That's why we don't have one, it's not about votes in Congress, the President can make it happen without that. So having set the table there, I want to talk to you about one of the sort of the big idea in the book, the sort of three legged stool of ideas in the book, and then pull out one of the things that ties directly into everything I've just said.

So the book is called *When the Stars Begin to Fall: Overcoming Racism and Renewing the Promise of America*. This doesn't suggest that we can erase racism, it says that we can create good public policy to mitigate the effects of racism on people of color to ensure that we have a more fair, more just more equal experience in America, even if we can never read the scourge of racism from the hearts of every American.

So the book makes three assertions: The first is that racism is an existential threat to America. structural racism is an existential threat to America. And by this, I don't mean that if we don't address racism, the United States is going to collapse. The United States has proven in its history, that it is sometimes can live quite comfortably with racism for like the hundreds of years that it lived with slavery. And then the decades afterwards in which Jim Crow ran rampant across the country, and then the structural racism we see today. So never mind the geopolitical entity right this moment. When I say structural racism is an existential threat to America. I'm talking about America, the idea, the idea that we're all created equal. The idea that we all have these unalienable rights. among

these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The idea that government derives its power from the consent of the governed. That's us. These ideas cannot coexist with racism. These ideas cannot coexist with racial inequality. So Either we move closer to the promise of America, that's those that highlighted language in our documents, or racial inequality, structural racism expands, and the idea of America dies, those two things can't live together. second idea is that national solidarity is the path to get to address racism. And by this, I mean forming Coalition's across racial and ethnic groups across class and region, across customs, cultures and religions, bringing people together and demanding more of their government, because our government is in breach of the social contract. It is not delivering and is not protecting and defending the constitutional rights of all of its people.

We live in a system of racial hierarchy and a system of rampant racial inequality. And until the government the state remedies that, then it is incumbent upon the people to come together across difference. The third leg of this is that Black America is a model for the kind of national solidarity the nation needs. You look at the journey of Black Americans in the United States. It is a testament to what solidarity can do to make a niche the nation be a better version of itself. And the way we have done this, is through making explicit appeals to the language and our declaration in our Constitution and showing the hypocrisy of the United States by not meeting not delivering those rights to Black people in full pre civil war and post-Civil War. It's not yet happened.

Certainly the country's made progress over the two nearly 250 years, it's been in existence, but it has not yet fulfilled its promises, and certainly not to Black folks. The last thing I'll say, on sort of this, this overview of the books argument is that one of the tactics that Black folks have used since the beginning of our country, even beforehand, is what I call trickle down citizenship. And this is sort of wrapping up where I started here. This is the idea that if you only make the principle, the moral claim of a nation to do what is right, that the nation is probably going to ignore you. But if you show how your moral and principal claim aligns with the nation's interest with the government's interest, then you are more likely to see action. A perfect example of this, I talked a little bit about the Civil War, for example. But let's talk about the civil rights movement.

From 1948 to 1968, we saw tremendous racial progress in this country, from 1948. The desegregation of the military desegregation of the Federal workforce 1954, we get Brown v Board that declares separate but equal unconstitutional. In 1957, we get a civil rights act. And

we get President Eisenhower sending in the 100. And first airborne to Little Rock, Arkansas, to desegregate the Little Rock high school there, as well as the University of Mississippi. In 1964, we get the Civil Rights Act Voting Rights Act of 65, Federal Housing Act of 68 20 years of judicial, legislative and executive progress on the question of race. It's not because white folks suddenly recognize that Black people deserved their humanity and dignity and access to the constitutional rights that are inscribed in our founding documents. But it is because during the Cold War, the Soviet Union was going around and exposing the hypocrisy of the United States. Every time we showed up and said that democracy free people, this is the way of the future. This is the way that God intended people to live. And we were telling the world that we were the home of the free and land of the brave and, and our democracy is, is the best style of government. And, and the people having the power to control democracy is the way it should work. The Soviet Union would basically say, but you lynched Negroes, as if to say, You're talking all of this stuff about liberty and freedom, and you're lynching your own people. And we see it on the television, we see it in the news reports. And when you see civil rights marchers, and their Sunday best, being attacked by German Shepherds, fire hoses and policemen, it is no question Who's behaving like a barbarian, and who the folks are, that are civil, and are, you know, behaving in accordance with the principles the nation says it holds, dear. So the reason we saw those 20, those two decades, 20 years of progress on the race question between 48 and 68, is because the power structures and the United States recognized that being a hypocrite on the global stage was going to cause it to lose the Cold War, we're going to lose influence in Sub Saharan Africa, we're going to lose influence in Southeast Asia, we're going to lose influence in the Middle East. And that was something that the national interest couldn't abide by losing the Cold War. And so delivering on a number of civil rights demands from Black folks in the mid-20th century, was directly related to the national interest and national security interest of defeating The Soviet Union in the Cold War.

So that brings us to today. How can we get reparations to happen today or any policy issue that addresses racial inequality? A lot of folks say reparations is not possible because it costs too much 5 trillion \$10 trillion to do reparations nationally. So what I did about four or five years ago, as I wrote an article that said, Okay, what if we did reparations by weighting the votes of Black folks, so that instead of y'all used to count us as three fifths of a person when it came to determine representation, when the nation was founded? What if our votes today counted as five thirds of our vote?

So basically, we have 500 of our 300 of us voting will count like 500 of us voting, and this gives us outsized influence on presidential

elections, congressional elections, state mayoral elections, and people still didn't want to hear it. Because the issue was never about the money. The issue was about the government making amends for something you did wrong. And even when you present alternative schemes, they still find an issue with it, because the scheme is not the problem. It is the dignity of Black folks that that is the problem. And so if we are going to take a step forward, what I argue in many places, but also in this book, is that we have to find a way to marry our policy demands that are based on principled and moral claims, along with the national interest to show that it hurts the United States to leave racial inequality, structural racism unaddressed. And when we can do those two things, when we can make that argument together, then we can have a better chance of pushing the nation to do the right. The right thing, not just Oh, reparations, but writ large.

Brittini Chicuata

Amazing, thank you so much, Dr. Johnson.

Reverend Brown

Madam Chair, can we bring the issue back right here at Ground Zero, San Francisco?

Brittini Chicuata

Absolutely.

Appreciate Johnson, your comments about your people in the system. And I'll have like morality.

Unknown Speaker 57:14

But those high sounding words, those quotes, are supposed to be in the moral standard for this nation. So it's not an either/or matter, it's both/and. And practically what we have happening in San Francisco are numbers of down to 3.94%. And you talk about the resegregation is happening in the school district. It is happening right here. The schools on the west side versus those over in Bayview/Hunter's Point there's a gaping disparity. And right now we are in a fight over whether or not Blacks should be at Lowell High School over another community knowledge community. So locally we got to fight. It takes two ways for bird to fly and two ways for a plane to stay in the air. We still have got to deal with this moral issue and calling out the faith leaders. Okay claim so much. But they're not doing anything. The only community of faith people in this town

who have come out support reparations has been the Jewish community that has been silent.

So I could say more, but I just even that, that. I hope that tonight from your inspiration, we've been inspired to look at the local, the here and now in our backyard, where we have these gaping inequities, even in housing. You look at El Bethel arms, I call that name tonight, out of 350 units. Now on the 45 Black seniors live in and out. And that development built in 50 years old by the blood, sweat and tears of Black folk. I can give you more evidence. As I said at the outset, we've got all the facts. We don't need to do no long study. We need to get together as a people stay united and state the case and let them know. When you don't hit it on the front side. You don't get it on the back side with civil unrest and what is happening with many of these young people who have been shoved to getting to live in horrible conditions. The public housing.

Brittni Chicuata 59:34

Absolutely. And that's exactly why Dr. Johnson was invited here to talk about his book and the global scale, but as you said, for us to look at it and how we're impacted locally and take inspiration about how we're going to be approaching the work of this committee in our advocacy. So I see your hand Mr. McDonnell but we have to go to public comment first.

Thank you. Thank you. So would any members of the public like to comment on this item? I see Ms. Katherine Campbell. So we're gonna move you over. Go ahead.

Katherine Campbell 1:00:19

Oh, you know, I was listening to this is Katherine again. And I was listening to see where is he? He was just talking about his book. Dr. Johnson. And then in listening to you, Dr. Johnson, I couldn't help but think about what Dr. Brown was saying earlier. And that was that, you know, the youth are on the front line right now. You know, I'm not, I'm not talking about baby children, I'm talking about you all the youth. And that's what we need to support, we need it, we need to, they've got the information, we got all the words, because we've listened to everyone and I've been in meetings, listening to words. Now, it's just time to take some action, we need to put those words into action, and not let them fizzle out. So I'm in agreement with Dr. Brown that this is what we need to do. And that's the reason why we're focusing on the youth for the 55th in October is that they meet, we want to give them the platform, you know, to move forward. And we know that a lot of the youth do have it in their mind, but they need the elders support in moving forward so that they can stay, you know, on the straight path and not get influenced by those who

are trying to dismantle this, you know, and justify it and that there is no justification for that we need we need you all to stay here in the city. We need y'all to stay here and fight for your right to the tree of life. So that that's all I need to say about that.

Brittni Chicuata 1:01:56

Thank you so much like Ms. Campbell. I see Jamil also with his hand up, so let me promote you. Okay, go ahead, Jamil.

Jamil 1:02:18

I like a, you know, commend, brother Ted for writing the book, man. I mean, yeah, get to live their words like that. And he's actually he's actually the first person. And I've heard logistically talk about how we can get reparations. But to echo what Reverend Brown said, and not to be distracted, reparations legally passed through the Board of Supervisors, if I'm not mistaken, in San Francisco. So I do think we need to make sure that that's binding. And then if we extend our attention, he should be statewide because Gavin is the governor. He used to be the mayor. And there are a number of people on the panel that have ties with Gavin. And then I also think we need to strengthen our narrative around it, because there are things on the table or any history that makes San Francisco legally binding to African Americans. You know, this is a genocide cause right here, and this is a fight the same Black San Francisco, which San Francisco has assisted in eliminating.

There's projects that's been worked on like Jonestown. Right. So I think, you know, these things need to be on a table. And I think, nationwide, the way we could look at is Black San Francisco can be the spark for Reparations nationwide. And I think that should be like a three year process. But in getting reparations for us, I think what will stop it locally, is if we take two or three years to get reparations, and San Francisco locally. That's what's stopping, you know, because I do feel like there are other people who don't look like us, maybe some who do, who are working to make sure that this doesn't happen. You know, I think while we got the mayor in place, and a number you have ties to the Board of Supervisors, who you know, worked in, you know, we control the Board of Supervisors, we had a mayor, we should be able to get reparations for our people. And I think things like housing and buildings are key. You know, like, we can at least make sure every Black person in San Francisco can have a place to stay for free.

Brittni Chicuata 1:04:50

And appreciate your comments. Thank you. Okay, I saw Ms. Phelicia Jones next.

Phelicia Jones 1:04:57

Yes, I just want to say you know, Black folks, you know, we always use the term, stay woke. But you know what we be asleep at the wheel? You know, first and foremost, thank you, Dr. Johnson for giving us the information. And, you know, and bringing some historical light to things that have happened to Black people. But, you know, I have to agree with Reverend Brown, you know, we got to stick to Black San Franciscans. And again, let me say that I am happy for this taskforce. But what I'm unhappy about that is this task force has no meat. And I say that because this task force is built upon a proclamation, not policy, not legislation. And so after the two and a half years, you put in all this hard work about what Black folks need.

There's no legislation attached to this task force. So the first thing that I would suggest is that you guys demand that policy, be attached to this task force, if not, is going to be the same thing. The unfinished agenda, the out migration of Black folks, and that other binding report that Theo Miller did, and his three reports, 55 years study in Black folks in San Francisco, and if they would have done, what they should have did, and the unchanged agenda, then we wouldn't be sitting here right now. And so again, you know, stay woke, because all this is right now is you guys doing the work saying what Black folks need. And by the time it comes to back to the Board of Supervisors, you don't know who's gonna be on the board of supervisors and may go into a proclamation but is not legislation. It is not policy driven. And if any change is going to come for Black San Franciscans, it must be policy driven. Please take note of that people. And this is where we have to fight for policy, not proclamations.

Brittni Chicuata

Thank you, Ms. Phelicia. I would say that the committee itself was legislated. It was it was legislated by a policy by supervisor Shamann Walton. Now as far as taking things from it, there's nothing legislated to do that---

Phelicia Jones

---that's what I'm talking about.

Brittni Chicuata

Okay, thank you. Our next person was patrician then Lee. I think they've lowered their hand.

Dr. Patricia Nunley 1:08:26

Thank you. My name is Dr. Patricia Nunley. And I want to say, Dr. Johnson, thank you for your report. And Reverend Dr. Brown, thank you for that commentary. So yes, we do need to act locally. But we do need to think globally. So my ask to you is this. What do you suggest? What do you suggest? Give us some strategies? Um, because there's, as you've heard, they already have the information. So what would you suggest we do going forward? And that's it?

Dr. Johnson 1:09:09

Yeah that's a-- it's a it's a great question. And it's a hard one, because it requires you to determine what the governor thinks is best for the state. What the mayor thinks is best for the city, with the board of superintendents in the locality government, what they think is best not just to increase the quality or the fairness justice across the city, but it is something that will not harm them politically. And this is the hard part about pragmatic politics. This is the uncomfortable part about when you're fighting for something that is morally just is trying to make the case for why someone should do the right thing. Doing the right thing should be enough reason in and of itself. But that's not how institutions work. That's not what systems are responsive to. So how can you Make it politically expedient for the governor, the mayor, the local government to begin addressing racial inequality in San Francisco, maybe that's a matter of, you know, thinking about housing schemes that could both make housing more available, more affordable and more just in ways that don't cost the city money. I don't know what that looks like. I don't know if that's private corporation investment. I don't know if that's federal grants. I don't know what that is like. But the challenge is to marry is to find the solution that you want, which is reparations, racial equality, and then find how it is politically possible, politically expedient for those with power to deliver on your aims, if people if those in elected office are those in appointed positions of power, deliver on reparations, and then it costs them their job. And they know this beforehand, the likelihood of them delivering on them is not extremely low.

And so if this were easy, people would have already married the moral piece to the pragmatic piece and begin implementing these things. But it's difficult, and that's why it's happening. The last thing I'll say on this is if you look at the situation at Georgetown University, where Georgetown began trying to think about how to do reparations, particularly to the families of the 272 enslaved Black people they sold to keep the institution open centuries ago, Georgetown didn't do that, because they had a moral epiphany. Georgetown did that because there was a reputational sanction attached to not addressing the crime, that of selling people that the institution committed decades ago. So if you can't make the political argument of why those and

political positions of power economic positions of power shouldn't follow through on reps on reparations, then what is the reputational sanction that Black folks in San Francisco can exact on state and local government, that to cause them to see that it is actually in their best interest to deliver on these things? I don't know what that that it could be protests. It could be civil unrest. But there are other strategies that could be boycotts. It could be the making the case known to the world that the plight of Black San Franciscans is not aligned to the story, San Francisco was telling the world about itself, how its hub of technology and innovation and opportunity, if you if you can cause a reputational sanction, if you can harm the city's sense of itself, by exposing the truth of racial inequality, then that's another strategy that can be perceived

Michelle Initial Miller 1:12:46

Hi, guys, my name is Michelle initial Miller. And I'm from Southeast Washington DC. I live in Maryland, and some of the things that one

--- so here in Maryland, of course, we're going through the same thing, but one thing we started doing here, is connecting youth to their 30 human rights, because we need to make a statement that these are human rights violations, first, to Shane Merlyn. And then to one thing I want everyone to kind of look at is, why is it that I'm a past hairstylist, but why is it that when you go into certain salons, and you look at their license, normally these are Asians, whatever, or Koreans and they have in every salon you go in, they all have the same date on their license. I do not understand how 20,000 people with salons, mostly nail salons can all have the same date on their license, that would mean that on that day, that building was flooded with just 1000s and 1000s of people and it's not possible. I sometimes think we forget the education part of everything and that we need to include that in this and that we need to start fast tracking some of these certifications as it relates to lead environment. These are some of the things that they are not allowing certain individuals to partake in through our colleges.

And these certifications are given to other individuals first, and we're always less, we're always last to get these certifications. So I feel that one human rights is very important to shame these on state representatives and then to putting education as it relates to housing and serve some of the goals that we see that they're trying to connect to already as we move forward in the new world. But the Black community is not a part of that in the beginning. And I feel like is a part of reparations and that it should be fast tracked, and that there should be no reason that individuals just can't get this this is a part of reparation is that we be a part of some of the new found technologies immediately. And that should be something that

we're doing now. And then later on, we can focus on the outcomes as it relates to housing as well. We do not have a lot of people who have Housing Choice vouchers or who are low income, who are section three registrants through HUD, they are not utilizing the section through registry through HUD. Right now, we will see a lot of homelessness because if 1000s and 1000s of people through HUD are not received their HUD counseling, they will be out of a job as of August 1. So those things, yes, thanks.

Brittni Chicuata 1:15:56

We appreciate you joining all the way from Maryland. Thank you. Okay, next I saw Alicia Mayo. And Ms. Mayo, you make sure you're talking to the mic this time? Because the last time you spoke we could not hear you.

Alicia Mayo

Okay. Okay. Can you hear me? Okay?

Brittni Chicuata

Yes, that's much better.

Alicia

Okay. Great. Thank you. Sorry about that. First of all, I am born and raised in San Francisco. And I want this committee to be hypo, hyper focused on San Francisco, because we are an example for the nation. And so we have to be clear about what it is that we are doing now we are concerned about, we can focus on what's happening everywhere else. I want us to be hyper focused on San Francisco. And there is enough history in San Francisco regarding employment, regarding housing, regarding healthcare records regarding all of the things that could fall under this reparations umbrella with someone like Reverend Dr. Amos Brown, who is a part of this committee and on the statewide level, connected with Governor Gavin Newsom, who is connected with our vice president Kamala Harris and London Breed and chemin Walton, we have all of the tools, we have all of the ammunition, we have all of the power, all of the knowledge all of the arrangement set up just right for us we have our supervisors on board with helping us create the committee and, and other things happening redirecting funding and all of that we are an example for the nation and we need to stay hyper focused on what is happening right here to be an example for the nation and the world. Let's not lose focus. And as far as public comment goes, I appreciate other folks commenting become on who is doing the screening or public commenting, we need to focus on residents because the residents need to be heard. I have a bunch of things that I could talk about how I have been discriminated against in healthcare raped in the in the stirrups as a 17 year old at San Francisco General Hospital by an emergency room physician, I

have been displaced with my mother and my brother from Fillmore when I won't, I will say when the same sex couples were allowed to come in with their two incomes, and purchase the building that we lived in. And put us out, okay, and then we will move on to double rock and Hunters Point then we got people sitting on property and not and given out places to who they want to give places out to discrimination and housing being a gerrymandering, and redistricting and all of that Pacific Heights live. Look, if you gave me an opportunity to go and choose where I wanted to live, I would go and pick a house, okay, because we have paid enough into taxes, property taxes, and all that where I should be able to go and pick a place where I want to live. I'm kind of upset right now. So please excuse me, for all of this. I'm trying to stay on focus on subject here. And that is let's focus on San Francisco's enough that's going on over the history. And there's enough of us left to tell the history and to do the work that we don't have to have other folks involved in all this wasting time.

Brittni Chicuata 1:19:48

Thank you so much for your comments. As a reminder to all public commentary, your comments do need to be related to the item that just came up. So thank you That reminds this man that we need to stick to what we're talking about, which is the presentation from Dr. Johnson. And if we start veering off, then we're gonna have to cut you off. No disrespect. Alright, I see Marion Jones. Ms Jones, are you there?

Marion Jones 1:20:23

Yes, I am. So I'm wondering if there's a way that this can be extended to look at Black led organizations that serve the Black community with our tax dollars, because the way that Black organizations get funded to the city means that we get paid a year late, which means we can't get the resources out to the community. And recently, the city hired a video and accounting firm to come in and look at the way that Westside community mental health center is funded. in that organization, they spent 10s of 1000s of dollars doing that so that the only way that we could continue to do business with the city, is if we had \$10 million in capital to advance the city because the city pays so late. So I think this is also connected to what's happening to our residents because we do things like pay for people's housing and pay for mental health support paper hospitalizations.

Brittni Chicuata 1:21:18

So, so those things, I think, if you wouldn't mind, we can have Juell Stewart and Cathy, please put your emails in the chat.

Marion

The chat is closed

Brittini Chicuata

The chat is disabled for public comment, but the members of the panel can add information to the chat. So um, we definitely would want to hear from you about this issue of infrastructure, because we're working on this not only in the context of reparations, but also the dream Keeper initiative. But right now, we're only talking about the presentation from Dr. Jackson. Okay, seeing no more public comment, I'm going to close public comment. And now I will go back to Mr. McDonnell, who had his hand up, and then we'll go through the other members of the committee.

Reverend Brown 1:22:10

Excuse me, Madam Chair, we still need the volume to be improved.

Brittini Chicuata 1:22:15

Oh, I'm sorry. you're unable to hear me.

Reverend Brown

The volume is not good. Okay, let me see. Can you hear me any better now?

Unknown Speaker 1:22:41

Dr. Brown, I can definitely hear I was saying I'm not having any trouble. Oh, okay. Awesome. Okay, I think you're as well. Thank you. Okay, Mr. McDonnell?

Eric McDonnell 1:22:55

So much. And I will be brief because some of what I had common question for Dr. Johnson about. He's already spoken to. But I just want to go back to a point Dr. Johnson. First, thank you so much for being with us this evening. We appreciate your time. And certainly your expertise. You spoken consistently about in terms of case making the nation's interest and obviously we are concerned about the city's interest, as has been stated. You seem to be so correct me if I'm wrong here setting it in the context in terms of interests of political interest. I guess my question is, are you holding more to that point of interest? Or is that the primary kind of crux of it that is about the political interests? And if we can make the case there we stand, you know, a better chance, so to speak, of making progress?

Dr. Johnson 1:23:46

No, that's a good question. And I do not mean to limit it specifically to political interests. We can talk about economic interests, we know boycotts can be effective. Historically, we can

talk about what's called like the ontological interest, which is the interest in a and this is the reputational sanction I talked about. And so a, a city, a government is interested in ensuring the stability of its identity, its character, San Francisco has a character it is known in the in the state as a certain kind of place with certain kinds of people and industries, and geography, etc. It's known in the world It has a character and identity to the, to the world, to the nation into the world. And so if you can hold those interests at risk, then that is also effective. So it doesn't have to just be political interest. That the challenge is that the people who are in the decisions to push public policy that can deliver on the demands that this taskforce will make are often people who are political actors. And so the political piece is never far behind the economic interest, the social interest, the ontological interest, but it is it I don't mean to suggest that political interest is always the priority. And always the most important thing, you can often exert political pressure on folks by making appeals to their economic or other interests. And all of those strategies are available to folks that are looking to push the city to do, you know, just do some sort of reform or implementation of new policy.

Reverend Brown 1:25:23
But brother, brother, Johnson—

Brittni Chicuata
There are other members in the queue actually, Reverend Brown. We want him to be let some other folks speak. We had some other people in the queue here

Reverend Brown
But I have a question for you on that score.

Unknown Speaker 1:25:42
Your colleagues also had their hand up for questions. I'm going to go to Starr Williams, I saw your hand go up.

Starr Williams 1:25:48
Um, so I agree with Dr. Johnson, because what he said of past history on the United States is actually true of how the United States started to look at a monk's internationally, which meant that they had to do something about it so they can make themselves look good. But I also agree with Dr. Reverend Brown about that we need to focus on San Francisco. But we can also apply to what the lesson that Dr. Johnson just said about the international policies and stuff like that, that how the United States looked at that to San Francisco, because we can connect it on different levels, because he's basically saying, like aligning yourself with politics, but also in the

entrance of the people of the of San Francisco. And so I think we just need to put his lesson upon San Francisco, because like, we can't just say, we need this, even though we were going to get this because the Board of Supervisors basically said that we can have our own reparations committee. No, they're not they're most likely not, I'm not going to talk negatively. But they can say like, Oh, no, that's too much. We have to demand that they pass everything that we want, instead of what they want. And so that's like political pressure and stuff like that.

Brittni Chicuata 1:27:12

Thank you, Ms. Williams. Okay. So as far as this queue goes, I have James, Tiffany, Patricia Anietie, Reverend Brown and then Gwen Brown. So James, you are up next.

James Lance Taylor 1:27:22

Thank you. Professor Johnson, I want to thank you for your presentation. I took notes. And even before you made your comments, I had made notes for what I hope to get into our conversation tonight, at some point, but you adequately address those issues? Because I think we have to keep these of breaks down to about three pieces in place, policy, politics and the public. The policy piece is the legislation, the legislation that created this entity. And back, you know, speaking back to a sister that raises the question about policy legislation. If we recommend legislation out of this committee, then we can recommend legislation out of this committee. That's that could be part of the reparations package that we come out, come out to our discussion and get one. So we haven't gotten that far yet. This whole room does not know if it's on the same page yet. We haven't had that conversation yet as to what reparations looks like. So we are not that far. This is our second meeting. We're still trying to know who each other is, you know, we know who each other is. So just bear with us a bit.

You're looking at Evanston, you're looking at Asheville, Evanston did an immediate rollout. But they realize that they launched too quick. And they had to pull back because they didn't know what they were doing. Not they didn't define what they do. They came up with arbitrage, trading dollars, they focused on the last 50 years of house housing policy injury, we can borrow aspects of that and go further like in other words, Evanston model was what happened to Black Evanston was effective in terms of property values, men at home, incomes and things of that. At the same point, I think we need to recognize that that's the policy piece. Right? You know, if we put this to a proper city and a state that just rejected affirmative action in November of 2020, when they and Obama I mean, Biden be

clear, this state just said no to affirmative action. So that's the political mill you were operating in.

And so we have to do some political work. A lot of the comments about other audiences, we have to know our political audience, the Board of Supervisors and the mayor, not our power as an audience, except maybe to win a public opinion, but I think we have to recognize that what was here 150 years ago. 180 Two years ago, when I say they have no connection to it, and neither do we, but the state of Georgia, Alabama, Washington, DC, you know, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, all of those places held slaves. And those places still exist and ended as they California and San Francisco. planes, not great people. And we need to be clear on our work here as to what that means. Raising slaves here, this state created itself because of slavery and created it. So in the same, I think it's my other, I think it's that I think I had a thing, um, and just be I'm trying to be quick, but just be clear that you know, the state of California, if you look at the history, they sent delegates to DC to create California, when they around the slavery issue, the politics of slavery, created California, and we weren't the slaves. The Indians were, and they had no quarrel with that for 300 years here. That's what we don't understand 300 years here. At the same time, California did not allow did not sanctioned slavery as an institution. In a way it could exist. California looked at his sister, Texas, and said, No, we're not going to allow it.

So California, I'm trying to be clear was created. As an alternative to Texas slavery model, California sent delegates to create itself as a free state, in the interest of Blacks, while they held the Indians and Chinese people in degradation. And so that that part is I think we need to be clear, California has a schizophrenic personality on its history. It didn't allow slaves, it didn't allow slavery, but it allowed slaves to be brought here for two or three weeks, and they had to be taken out slaves came with the Gold Rush, they had to do the Masters digging, then they will allow free time to do their own digging, California is yes and no on that both sides of this issue in terms of history. It's been great with millionaires like Mary Ellen Pleasant, with to MIT where 400 Black people in the 1850s had \$2 million here in San Francisco, and they funded John Brown, and they funded the Underground Railroad.

In the 1850s 400, Black people made up the Black population of San Francisco, they had \$2 million. And they started the civil rights movement back east that was called Underground Railroad. And but at the same time, California wasn't a slave state. So as we're approaching this, I think we have to figure out how we can use the positive aspect of that history. But California did the right thing.

But also highlight its contradictions, including the Native American and Chinese oppression, even if we just recognize them again, and not try to create any sort of remedy, we can make a policy recommendation that you know, they are attend to those histories, because of those injuries to those groups, respectively. But that's not our focus, but we can show love and recognize it. But again, policy, so we might need to talk about what kind of legislation would we put forth? If we put a proposition forward? Do you think it would pass in San Francisco. That's the politics part of it. So we got to win the politics.

Everybody wants to have a race, but nobody wants to do the fight. You got to fight to get reparations. We've started on the doorstep in Oakland, people fought gay marriage started on the steps of San Francisco City Hall, people fought locally. And then it went national, we got to fight locally, and win the fight locally, politically, we got to win the policy piece, we got to win the politics of the argument. We got to win the argument locally in the news, we need to bring Bank of America and Patelco on our side. If you don't got Bank of America, on your side, you're wasting your time with all of this, because they already promised 1.3 billion. And if we can't get them to partner with us on this, then what are we doing now? San Francisco business. They're the richest entity in this city. Talking about they're doing for Black people and every commercial you see. So I'm trying to be quick and respect time but I hate whenever I talk. I always feel like I'm the one that's doing long, but everybody's been taking their time, the Georgetown piece. We at USF our sister School of Georgetown, we're Jesuits be clear brothers. That money at Georgetown. I organize a panel at our university and brought a whole bunch of Jesuits and Black Catholics together and be clear that money didn't just save Georgetown. It saved the Jesuit Catholic order in America and created my school in 1855. So everything west of Georgetown, that's Catholic Jesuit, that's Gonzaga, Loyola, Marymount Santa Clara. All of those schools are Jesuit. We need to put them on the dole for Reparations. We need to put the private businesses on the goals of reparations and then the public. We've got to win over

James Lance Taylor 1:35:00

Connecting with the Black of connecting with the Black community in terms of the community base. can hear me now. I got 10 seconds left. I gotta tell you, we're going I got 10 seconds, I would just say, we need to think about how to organize, and the community, to read to do the outreach. We do have to do political education. There has to be a political education, public education piece to this, we have to do propaganda, we have got to win the argument. 1520 years ago, 3% of white people supported reparations. Now it's about 18 1920. In some

places, 25%. It's, it's really moving in the right direction. If we don't push it, nobody is. And it's audacious for us to insist and if San Francisco does it, this is the largest municipality in the world that will have done reparations, not just in America, no city this large has addressed reparations. And if we do it, it will be what San Francisco has been as a model for so many other avant garde policies. And be clear, I just taught my class last semester in urban politics.

And one of the books that we use specifies that cities can do experimentally, what national and state and even county governments cannot do, we can do this because we are a city and not the federal government. And then remember, Brown told us two meetings ago, opposition is out there, and it's coming. And we know that if they but I think we have to recognize some folks that watching and see what happens here. If we're successful or not. They don't think we're going to get that far along enough to get to a serious proposal, but let them breathe may have breached This gave a billion dollars last year to the homeless, right? She didn't have you know, right. And I think when you think about that, we can make a recommendation directly to the mayor's desk or to the supervisors. In the same way do we need to recommend billions of dollars in reparations here for San Francisco, and be clear on that. But also be clear on the you know, the policy and the politics, the policy, politics, public. Thank you. Okay, I had I had Tiffany, Leticia and Reverend Brown. Hi, everyone.

Dr. Johnson 1:37:26

So I just want to say, um, I am very committed to immediate forms of reparations. So I don't plan to sit in my seat and hold it for too long, I want to see us take immediate action, if you're saying we need to partner will be available and out that letter. Let's make that happen now. And as far as legislation, let's talk about that. We have people that sit on that sit in the seats that do legislation every day, so we can get things done. That's what I'm here for. I have no intention on letting this go two to three years, by two to three years, we should be eating from the fruits of our labor. So that's, that's what I'm here for. I want to thank Dr. Johnson for your book for all your research, I think it is, um, you definitely made me look at things in a different perspective. So you already gave a lot of great recommendations. But I'm just hoping for maybe one more to our, our, our group, our committee, specifically for San Francisco. And then and also I just want to say also, um, a lot of people are saying we should focus on San Francisco, I think San Francisco is always focused on San Francisco because that's just kind of how we grow. But I want to say for me, I'm definitely will be looking at other cities and other places and seeing what's working

and not working so that we can make the best decisions moving forward. So thanks for your time, everyone.

Brittini Chicuata 1:38:50

Thank you. Okay, we have Laticia, Reverend Brown and then Gwen Brown.

Laticia Erving 1:38:58

Thank you, again, Dr. Johnson. And like has been said by many of us do it now not waiting. But one of the things I was thinking about when Dr. Johnson offered his offering of making it politically expedient to the powers that be, and you also named ally ship, and you're you have a three point bullets, and you named ally ship. And initially I lowered that as a priority. Because I really want Black folks to be able to stand on our own and this notion for us by us. And I know that everything we've always done everything that people do is we when we have ally ship, we see things better, but I want us to focus on us. But as you were talking as we were having this conversation, I started to think about how do we do ally ship? That won't necessarily because we know that it's necessary, we have to get the voters on board involved. We have to make sure that the politicians see this in their best interest. I get all that. I hate that. That's what we have to consider but it is I want to make sure what we do when we do when we're doing ally ship. We don't do it in a way that prompts the What about us calls, right because every time we do something, then it prompts the well what about us. And we know that San Francisco is full of struggling populations, we know that San Francisco has, you know, other groups that have been harmed in this nation, but also in our city. But what often happens is that we get the me to movements.

And eventually, and inadvertently, it pushes Black folks back down the priority list. And again, it's going to be on our backs, our labor, our oppression that others benefit. And I think like, we know, when we take care of Black folks, we don't take care of everybody, everybody will be taken care of, as it always been, has been, but somehow Black folks continue to be at the very bottom, we do not get what we deserve, and what we need, while we're even when we're fighting for us, other folks are benefiting. And so I'm just curious, Dr. Johnson, how you think about ally ship and partnering with diverse populations in a way that isn't going to take away in a way that because even in the stuff that we've done in the city recently, and talking about Black folks, what eventually happens is folks are saying, well, there's money for Black people, how do I get that? I need some, we need businesses to our community is hurting too. And yes, that's true. But right now we're talking about reparations for Black people. And how do we keep it that way? Because even when we're talking about public dollars for Black folks, everybody started

putting their hands out. And now we have to have meetings where we're being inclusive and thinking about everyone else. And so how do we get those folks on board? Without taking away from us? Just thoughts? And if you can also give me a recommendation? Dr. Johnson, I want to take notes on it.

Dr. Johnson 1:41:28

Yeah, I don't know if I have a real good concise answer for you. That's failproof You're right. Movements get hijacked all the time. As soon as people start paying attention to a movement, a lot of fame seekers, folks looking for the spotlight, come into the into the into the movement to try to make money to try to garner to exercise influence, try to get their way, if Black folks start saying reparations need to be paid, then folks will say well, what about Native Americans? And what about these immigrant communities? And what about homelessness and poverty aren't these issues too? Yes, they are.

But the-- what this group is trying to do and what activists are very good at doing is keeping the main thing the main thing, and not allowing those who want to partner with you in support of your cause, to then redirect your energy to support their cause. And that is always going to happen, there's always not if you don't just have to worry about those who are working against what you're working for. You have to worry about those who will try to move your movement 510 degrees off the original target, in order for them to benefit. This is I mean, the comments from brother Taylor, were right on public policy doesn't happen without politics and public opinion. And as soon as people recognize that a policy window has opened, because a movement has figured out how to garner public opinion and the politics to get policy to move. Everyone else wants to get through that window to get their idea. And that window to when we I mean, I could go on about legislation where you get people tacking on all sorts of things to bills to address COVID for example, now people want to factory built in their hometown, and call it a COVID relief bill.

So this is going to happen. And so the key will be strong leadership, mission oriented, organizing, and ensuring that the reason people are in the room, it's because they're talking about reparations, not because they want to come and do Black energy for their cause. And that is not a dive that is not an easy task to do. And this where it kind of goes back to the point about political expedience, when politicians recognize that it is in their interest to deliver on Black people's demands, and not on the demands of this movement that Black people started, but now that are run by all these other folks, the movement isn't what they're responsive to, they have to be

responsive to the policy demands. And that way, if the movement gets off course, they have to see it in their interest to deliver on the policy and not just to be to deliver concessions to the movement. And so the organizing sometimes can get in the way of the moral cause for which it originally organized behind and keeping politicians focused on the moral reason the actual policy demand and not just on being responsive to an organization is one way to prevent the thing from getting hijacked. But something you got to have to guard against throughout the entire process.

Brittini Chicuata 1:44:35

Thank you. Thank you so much. Okay, Reverend Brown, and then we have Gwen Brown..

Reverend Brown 1:44:49

The facts, ma'am, the facts, sir and nothing but the facts. Fact number one. Dr. Taylor in 1858, How many Blacks had to leave this town because they couldn't get jobs, they couldn't get education. They couldn't serve on jurists. That was a first egregious wrong against Black folk. Even though California was to be a free state, and you had up at the top, that racist governor Peter Barnett, who was pushing the folks out. And he, before he left, the governor's office had come up with a notion that no Blacks be permitted to settle and California Oh, fast forward. Fact number two. I have in my possession documents where the redevelopment agency admitted that it had wrong the Black people. When it came over the policies and practices that were put in place that destroyed the Fillmore. That's a fact. Fact number three, in terms of education, Black students per capita are the worst performing students in any school district in the state of California. education should be up at the top of the list that leads to enlightenment, critical thinking.

Next, we have this egregious wrong. If that heritage building is not in the hands of Black folks, you're going to kiss him goodbye. And this reparations Commission's committee advisory committee should push the mayor's office and the politicians and the corporate world to get behind this heritage building so that that will be assembling a watering hole for Black people. The Chinese have Chinatown, the Japanese have Japantown. The Latinos have the Mission, though they've been trying to take that away. Italians got North Beach and the white folk got most of the financial district. That's what we got the state and Agha as being our justifiable case, for the sensible response, responsible, reliable reparations for Black folks in this town. And then finally, you look at the word of Black institution, where there's institutional memory, where they're still assemblages of Black folks owning property in this town and not just reading, renting abandoned public housing. The Black church has the lion's share of real estate in this town.

Therefore, we should make sure that we keep our alliance with that institution that has I repeat institutional memory has real estate and build on it. But I hope that this advisor committed will say to the man and to the board, we don't need no two years. We don't want to be set up for failure. We don't want to give you the credit of another book being done. A study being done. We want action. And as Nike said, Just do it. We need to do it. And then the doing got to tailor not just Bank of America. Sale force you brought be brought to the table, Wells Fargo, Twitter, all of these institutions that have been excluding Blacks from getting these tech jobs, and they could have gone south and recruited Blacks like they did during World War Two to work in the shipyards and be longshoreman to work as porters on the railroad. For way soldiers go off to war. If they did it, then we can recruit Black scholars, and hotcake people from our Black institution and invited to come and to make amends for the displacement of Black people in this town. About five years ago, the New York Times did about a three page article on San Francisco and how it made Black folks feel lonely.

Reverend Brown 1:49:37

All of the data is out there. All we need to do is just state our case. And like a pit bull Oh, not let go. Until we get quality. responsible, accountable, reliable reparations program in this town is we're not gonna be left here. Right Bayview Hunters Point is 37%, Asian down into Sunnydale and 60% Blacks, and that's where it used to be 60% of the Black homeownership in this town, in the Western tradition, right here with their Baptists exist, is now 80%, Asian, and down to 10%, Black. But it used to be 25 30%, here in the Western tradition.

So we just got to love No, we know how to read. We know how to research. And we know how to think and we know how to be responsible. And we want action. And we need you to partner with us, and work as a dream team to turn this situation around. And we really need to do it. Because right now what's going around the world is Black folks going into Walgreens? They Neiman Marcus, shoplifting. And who's at the top of that game, is some folks who don't look like us. The police department has already reported that is a big major crime rate. And what would end up happening is blaming this Black male, and there's Black cheats, but the downfall of this ship, but it is not Black folks who intentionally by name, nature, criminals and doing that thing. You have folks who are playing Black folks to give a bad brand and image of us and ultimately, this city. And then we keep on having this shoplifting keep on having this breaking in what's going to happen is going to affect negatively our top industry, tourists.

Question is, are we ready for the fight? I don't know about you, but I am at 80 years old, and I ain't tired yet.

James Lance Taylor 1:52:03

Reverend Brown, if I could just respond real quickly. I agree, completely I on was just talking about the slavery history. But clearly, California is deeply implicated in all the discrimination even at that time against Blacks. And for all the time and San Francisco for all time. Talking about the formation of slavery, yeah, but otherwise, I agree completely. discrimination. California does owe reparations for discrimination for all kinds of in the way Evanston is looking at, look, how do we affect people by, you know, their mortgages and their ability to retain sure of their families, homes and things? So thank you. Thank you.

Brittini Chicuata

Thank you, Reverend Brown. Gwen Brown, you're up next?

Gwen Brown 1:52:50

Well, I was actually just asking a question on how I did raise my hand because I don't have that feature. But I might as well add something to this. So one of the things that interests me about the conversation of reparations is an economic settlement. I'm wondering, Dr. Johnson, if we were to do a cost benefit analysis, when it comes to the issue of reparations in San Francisco. I don't know if any of us have that type of document to be able to complete something of that magnitude, given California's history and involvement in disenfranchising Black people, and especially San Francisco and city and county. So my question is, what kind of statement of work should we be building? If we were to hire consultant to do a cost benefit analysis of the amount? If we were to pursue an economic settlement? About reparations? in San Francisco? What would something like that? Maybe you can recommend something? Something like that look like?

Dr. Johnson 1:53:56

Yeah, that's a great question. And so I there is a number of professors who have looked at the cost. Last is not labor. But that has looked at the cost of Black labor lost, and you have to include the interest over time, etc. I think Sandy Darity at Duke is one who's well known. He's put the national cost of reparations upwards of \$10 trillion. So this isn't to suggest that he has the answer for San Francisco, but that his method of determining the national number probably has application for determining local numbers as well. And it boils down to chronicling the list of damages. I mean, you're certainly essentially trying to file like a tort case or a harms case against the civil case against San Francisco for exploiting labor for prevention, preventing the accumulation of wealth, from everything

from fair wages through savings accounts, through home values through federally backed mortgages, discrimination and credit scores and education, college education, admissions. And so you will have to sort of Chronicle all of the ways discrimination happened against Black San Franciscans, from the time that Black folks were introduced to the city to today, and then put \$1 value on that list of harms. It's difficult, but it's possible.

And it doesn't have to be exact, you know, if the number is 1 trillion or 1.1 trillion, you're in the ballpark. And you can start having discussions, the other, so it's possible. And I would say that there's a, there's probably worth using some of the folks here in higher ed to do a literature Review of those who have tried to calculate reparations, nationally, not just in the United States, but in other nations, as well as locally to determine how to attach dollar figures to lost value over time. The other part of this, though, is that the power Don't let the policy questions trip you up. And so if folks will say, well, who counts is Black? And let's talk about that, before we start talking about dollar value. Don't worry about who counts as Black, talk about the harms that were done to Black folks as a group, and then come up with a number, the who gets money, you can figure that out after the city has agreed to pay out. And the other question will be What were you talking about? Anyone who has ever lived in San Francisco Black folks, only those living there? Now? What if people have only lived there for 18 months? Do they get a check? Or do you have to be here for at least five years? Those kinds of questions are engineered to stop progress. The way to, it's to table those questions and figure out the loss to Black San Francisco, from racial discrimination from the day Black folks came to the city today. And then once that number has been devised and calculated, then you know the other questions about implementation and distribution can come up. But that those are easy tactics that folks will use to sidetrack the conversation. Focus on the academic aspect of the economic aspect of calculation. And I would turn to some economic professors that have been doing this work for a couple of decades to get a sense of where to start and how to begin to build those numbers. Before that answer.

Gwen Brown 1:57:22

One of the reasons why I'm asking this is because you mentioned exposing the truth of San Francisco to diminish the reputational image, I think this could be something that we as a task force should possibly look at looking at the cost benefit analysis of the harm the economic harm that has been caused to San Francisco, to make the to, to, to expose, to expose that the branding of San Francisco as inclusive free love environment has not been extended to the Blackened community and as an as an actuality, has been denied. So I

only bring that up as maybe we can use that as leverage, right? To make that case of San Francisco's reputation. So thank you very much,

Brittini Chicuata 1:58:19

Thank you for that, Ms. Brown. Okay, up next, I had Rico, Shakeyla and then Gloria.

Rico Hamilton 1:58:30

Okay, hi, everyone, I just want to first just thank the entire advisory board for all the amazing work that everyone is doing here, but also all the amazing work that everyone's doing outside of here. I'm so motivated. Tonight, I want to thank you, Dr. Johnson, for your words, I think it was very, very important. And just opened our eyes on different ideas on how we can come about doing the work here in San Francisco and looking at it from a holistic approach, not just being stuck in one mind frame, but having a growth mindset on different ideas and different concepts on how to push this stuff forward. Thank you, Gwen and Tiffany for your words, because y'all just real literally just motivated me. Because I was kind of frustrated on the car. I'm and I'm gonna be 100 cuz, like, we trying to push things forward. And I think a lot of times that we come and we have these boards, and we have these meetings, and I gotta say this and I gotta release it. Because like, we'll be doing this and the number one killer of us is us. And we'll get we'll get sidetracked. And we'll talk about all the stuff that doesn't even matter that most of us already know. We know. Every movement has been sabotaged by our own people.

So at the end of the day, we have to figure out how do we get our people in lockstep? So I know as a committee member, I definitely want to open my hands to everybody so we can build a relationship with each other. We can know each other so that we can know like we all stand in solidarity, whatever we put forward, because at the end of the day, us talking and everybody saying the same exact thing, but trying to phrasing to sound important. That's grandstanding. And we'll go do that on here. Because I would rather just walk away from this. And I'm going to be 100. Because I don't want to be grandstanding in front of my community. Yeah, I mean, because I'm not one of them type of people, I want to be sure if we're gonna do this, let's push it hard. And let's be real. And let's do it for the people. And that's what is 100% about, it's not about grandstanding, who can sound important and who can't? We already know the issues? We know what's going on with our community? How are we going to push the agenda? We know all the stuff we need, they got three reports, how are we going to push that stuff forward? That's all. And that's all I want to say. Thank you, ladies for that motivation. Because I felt that I definitely need to say that. Because at the end of the day, we

have a visitor on this call. And to me, I think that at some point, we got to figure out like, just thank you for your words, I think you everything you said made perfect sense to the majority of us just continue to do what you're doing in writing communities on ways that they can push reparations for the communities.

Brittini Chicuata 2:01:00
Thank you up next we had Shakeyla.

Shakeyla O'Cain
Hi, good afternoon, everyone. My name is Shakeyla O'Cain. And I'm really happy to be here with everybody and getting great insight. And definitely really motivated to do the work. I wanted to ask Dr. Johnson in regards to like universal income for universal income for reparations for the likes of San Francisco. Do you have like any findings on that? or How can that be? Is that something that could be put in place? or How could that come about as well?

Dr. Johnson 2:01:33
Yeah, that's a good question. And this is another one of those issues. Typically, when folks talk about reparations, once we come up with a number, then you divide it by the number of eligible folks to receive reparations, and then you just divide that up. And if you ever want to check, but it doesn't have to be that way, there are a number of schemes you can use to, to ensure reparations are paid out over time, or in lump sums, or given folks the option. One of those other ways instead of a lump sum is through a universal basic income that's paid out maybe over the lifetime of Black San Franciscans, or over a set period of time. That may be preferable for a city, because it allows them to expand the financial hit the city will take for paying out reparations over time, and instead of taking it out in a single budget year. And so then you're sort of getting into the details of how to issue reparations, and doing it through a universal basic income that's not truly universal. It's basically UBI for Black folks, is one of those options. It could be again UBI for five years, 10 years, 15 years, or other sort of financial schemes. I'm not familiar with a nation that has done universal basic income specifically for Reparations. But even the United States has done a kind of that, for example, the families that were subject to the Tuskegee experiment, where you know, these men in Tuskegee, Alabama, were not treated for syphilis. And they were basically used as medical experiments to doctor the doctors to see what syphilis would do to them. They were paid reparations, and part of that was a lump sum check. Another part of that was lifetime health care, which was basically a medical benefit that was available to the men and their families for the remainder of their lives. So it wasn't a lump sum

thing. But it was an annual benefit that the United States government is continuing to pay to the family members of the men in the Tuskegee experiment. So there are no direct corollaries to UBI as reparations, but there are some analogous situations where that kind of scheme would be feasible.

Brittini Chicuata

Thank you. Okay. I see Ms. Gloria Berry.

Gloria Berry 2:04:03

Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Johnson, for your presentation. I wanted to ask you, there is a guaranteed income committee here in San Francisco, and the deadline for their report is just six months so that that's something that's significant for us to know. And being that that's it's a report it's being worked on. The focus has been the Black community, although it will include people with the lowest incomes in the city. So my question is, what do you see as any conflicts whether a person is getting a guaranteed income through San Francisco guaranteed income, San Francisco reparations, California reparations, whether they launched first before us and then at the federal level, maybe 510 years from now if they ever even finished the passing the bill. any conflicts in financial settlement

Dr. Johnson 2:05:00

That is a really good question. And I've not read a lot of scholarship on this question, but it's a great one. And so a couple things. One is if San Francisco decides to do guaranteed basic income for every resident or every resident below a certain income, household income level, a lot of folks will say, that is basically reparations because Black folks are getting it to Black folks, maybe disproportionately below the poverty level. In San Francisco, I don't know the data, don't let that happen. The reparations is a different issue from the issue of guaranteed basic income. And so if they San Francisco decides to do it, one avenue would be to say, well, the for Black folks who qualify for guaranteed income, maybe they should be plussed. Up and how much money they get, as a way of initially doing reparations, you know, as a way of initially distributing reparations, but the goal is to keep it separate and not to allow folks to take universal programs and replace reparations for that, when folks start talking about Medicare for all what you think is a good idea or not, it is not race conscious policy, even if Black people are helped by universal health care. That is not reparations, just because it's something that everyone is getting. And that's something specific to the harm. Now, the other part, the second question about conflicts of interest. That's, that's difficult. And so what will happen is, folks, let's say San Francisco decides to do reparations, California may say,

Well, San Fran, Black folks in San Francisco already got their money. So when we're calculating California, we don't have to worry about all the Black people in San Francisco anymore, they've already got theirs, we only have to worry about everyone outside of that. That's not true. The harms that happened in San Francisco to Black folks, were specific to San Francisco and Black folks. And so there's a cost for that harm, then there were harms that the state enacted that hurt Black people across the state, the state is responsible for that, not San Francisco. And then there are harms that the nation put in place to policy that harmed Black people everywhere, including Black people in California, and Black people in San Francisco. So those numbers don't necessarily, but they're not synonymous. They're not if you pay reparations in one city, that the Black folks in that city have now been compensated for everything done wrong to Black people in that city. That's not how it works. When if you know, if you serve in the military, the city of San Francisco doesn't have anything to do with your pay that have anything to do with your hiring your promotion. That's all federal government. So when the federal government was denying GI Bill loans to Black folks to Black veterans, San Francisco has a housing issue they need to remedy with Black San Franciscans. But the federal government has a housing issue they need to remedy with Black. Black veterans are the descendants of Black veterans. Those are not just because there's reparations paid for housing in San Francisco doesn't mean every housing issue as for Black folks there has now been addressed. So it This is why I mentioned chronicling the harms that are specific to Black San Franciscans, because that will show you some of the harms came from the state. Some of the harms came from the federal government. And you can charge San Francisco For their part in that. But then you have a bill to pass over to the state of California, and a bill to send the federal government as well.

Brittni Chicuata 2:08:18

Alright, so I don't see any additional hands raised from our committee members. But I just wanted to give you all another opportunity. Before we have to say goodbye to Dr. Johnson. So does any other committee member have something else that they'd like to say?

Brittni Chicuata 2:08:41

Just one second, I'm just wanted to remind the public that we already had discussion open for the sorry about being clear on that. Okay. I apologize about that.

Dr. Davis 2:08:59

And Brittnei Chicuata, if Brittnei Chicuata, if I could, I just also want to thank Dr. Ted because I know that he is on a different time zone than we are. So I appreciate him for being on and staying on. And, you know, the ups and the downs, the good and the bad of the conversation. So thank you, Dr. Ted for staying on a little longer.

Dr. Johnson

Oh, thank you all for having me. I really appreciate great conversation.

Brittnei Chicuata

Thank you so much. Okay, Mr. Landry.

Daniel Landry 2:09:27

Yeah, just wanted to echo Dr. Johnson, thank you for that insight. And I had an opportunity to look at what's going on in Maryland. And similar reparations. Push. I you know, when you speak about what I what I can hear from you is that you know, a lot of times when we're talking about the city and stress versus the interest of the Black community It would be political suicide, as we all know, for us to believe that we can just introduce an idea without having the backing of the people. And I know someone said that earlier. I don't know if it was Mr. Taylor, brother Taylor. But I think what we have to really understand is that this is a new phase for all of us.

And we should approach this as like someone said earlier on the panel that we don't want to make mistakes that other committees or other reparation bodies, you know, by moving out too fast. I agree with a lot of a lot of people have said in terms of this don't have to take two years. And it all will depend on how fast we work and how diligently we put in the work and how much we agree upon the work that's being presented in the proposals. But I'm, I'm firmly committed. And I, I believe the people that's on this panel, from what I can see, as ready, able and willing, and I just want to again, just echo of what I could hear. And I was just trying to really just put my ear as they used to say in school, put your money caps on, because I want to really know where people are speaking from the heart. And this is an excellent opportunity for us to do something that's going to shock sensualist throughout America, and out the world. So just thank you, Dr. Johnston. And thank you panel for this discussion. Thank you so much. And yes, just want to echo that gratitude.

Brittnei Chicuata 2:11:42

Really appreciate your time this evening. Thank you to all the committee members for your questions. And so since I'm not seeing any additional questions, I'm going to leave Dr. Johnson give him his

rest of his evening back. But thank you again for your time and expertise with the committee. Thank you. I appreciate it, y'all.

James Lance Taylor 2:12:02

Real quick before you leave, I'm sorry. I guess I can't I guess I can't leave it alone in a city that has watched its Black population leave every decade for the last five decades since 1970. That wasn't worried about how that looked. And a city that has Black people disproportionately out in the streets, right?

Okay, I was saying in a city that has lost half of its Black population, every decade from 70s, 80s, 90s to now. And a city that has a disproportionate number of Black people living in the streets. And the only section of Black San Francisco as growing as the homeless is district six with the tenderloin. I guess what I'm trying to paint a picture is that apparently they don't care how they look. Because these things have happened. And San Francisco continues to hold itself up as this liberal Bastion. And everyone in this room knows the size that everyone in this room knows better than people outside of this city, that dynamic of race, racial liberalism or liberal racism. And so I guess I'm trying to figure out from you on your way out the door. You know, there are things that are happening now that are embarrassing to you know about what's happening to Black San Francisco. So how do we factor that in that they aren't aware of certain injuries already. And this committee's existence may be assigned, like some people are impatient about how the rollout but this committee's very existence? Look at 170 years since we've been here. And we talked about two years. This committee's existence is progress and evidence that we're close. Maybe not. Yeah, we're closer than we were yesterday and two years ago. So yeah, it may not be checked tomorrow. But again, we are 100. And we're we you know, again, it's 170 years behind us of Black history in San Francisco. So I'm saying we're close to trying to deal with some of these issues. But also, I wanted to ask you to do with the first part of the question.

Dr. Johnson 2:14:24

Yeah, it's hard. Look, I think the easy answer is have the folks in power paid a political penalty for Black folks leaving the city? The answer's no. Then there's no incentive for them to stop the Exodus. If they're looking at their city and looking at housing values and property taxes shooting up, they're looking at quarter billion multi billion dollar corporations in Silicon Valley continue to operate pulling profits in hand over fist. They can point to a mayor and say what do you mean We don't embrace Black people here we have a Black mayor, we had a Black Attorney General, or district attorney, and so that there's no penalty being paid. For those who are for a

government that is allowing the exodus of Black folks, the same thing is happening in Washington, DC, Washington, DC used to be like 75%, Black. Now it's less than 50% of residents of Black and DC are now are Black, despite the fact that the mayor is Black, and etc. And so but it's because the city has actually gotten wealthier, Revenue tax Revenues have increased, even though Black folks are leaving. And they still call themselves chocolate city, even though it's not like it's so when there's no political penalty to be paid with the exodus of people, then there's no incentive for those governments. So those folks with power who are governed by their interest to be responsive.

And so I think the reputational piece here that we've talked a little bit about, is a way to go to say San Francisco is not the welcoming, loving city that it puts itself up to be San Francisco is not the future of a digital economy as the way it puts itself up to be because Black people are leaving because they can't afford housing, because their schools are not properly resourced, because they're not being protected in the criminal justice system, they're being exploited by it. And these are happening under this very wealthy, liberal city. And that, and that is the real story of San Francisco, and then perhaps folks will feel compelled to tell a different story of San Francisco that will require them to address the wrongs that are presently happened to Black folks that are there, and to those that have decided to leave and pursue, you know, opportunity elsewhere.

Dr. Davis 2:16:44

And so if I could, again, just and I know I'm jumping in, I just want to thank you again, Dr. Johnson, as I think the whole point was to have you spur conversation and, you know, understanding and recognizing, realizing that and so I know I did not maybe do enough to prepare you for this lively conversation, but appreciate your ability to kind of jump in and for us to understand what's worked in other places, what has not, and then also just to, to help us think about where the gaps are, or where we should be a little bit more intentional in this work. So thank you for being so responsive and, and, and helping us think about what we should be looking at as we move forward.

Dr. Johnson 2:17:26

Absolutely. I appreciate y'all having me. And I'm happy to follow up with any one of you or all of you, in the future as you guys do this really important work. I appreciate it. Excellent. Well, thank you so much for having me. Thank you. Thanks, you too. Take care.

5. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN REPARATIONS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR (*Action Item*)
Public Comment

Brittini Chicuata 2:17:44

Alright, everyone, so we're gonna move on to item number five, nomination and election of the African American reparations advisory committee chair. So pursuant to the city and county of San Francisco Administrative Code Section, one chapter five, article. I'm not sure which article that is, I'm sorry, I don't speak Roman numeral section 5.46. through six B, I'll put it in the chat meetings and procedures. The Advisory Committee shall elect a chair and such other officers as it deems appropriate and may establish bylaws and rules for its organization and procedures. So we will be taking nominations for the position of chair. Each nomination must be seconded. And then we'll close the nominations for a vote. Once the chairs are elected, there will be a brief pause where the chair will take over this meeting and their duties to lead the advisory committee meeting.

Dr. Davis 2:18:42

I was just gonna say so we did not agendaize voting on the vice chair. So we have three people that have expressed interest in the vice chair. So what will happen tonight, once you make the decision about the chair, we'll have a discussion about whether to have two or three vice chairs. And then at the next meeting, we will vote on the vice chairs because we were not able to agendaize them for tonight. Specifically, we only put the chair in the agenda. We didn't put other positions on the committee. Is that correct? Cathy? Yeah, that is correct. It was my error. I forgot to delete that part of the script. Sorry. But

James 2:19:25

Is there any provision for us to hear from the people that are self nominating?

Brittini Chicuata 2:19:34

The process is going to be that we open this up to public comment just on the general concept of election of the chair to the Advisory Committee. And as a reminder, each speaker in public comment will have two minutes to speak. And then we'll close public comment. And then after that, I'll open the floor for nominations to the for the position of chairperson and then you'll be able to speak After nominations. Okay. So, public comment, we're going to open up public comment. I see Jamil's hand is up.

Jamil 2:20:18

This is regarding chair, right? I know people are tired of hearing me talk, man. But I, you know, I'm a part of this community too. You

know, but I'm due to my experience in the past. I will recommend Daniel Landry. I think he has expertise, sharing skills, and master Robert's Rules. He has, you know, a lot of his lives, questions that's been asked about redevelopment, you know, he has knowledge on that. I think it's the perfect position for Daniel Landry. I have a lot of experience working with him in the past, so I recommend him. That'd be all.

Brittni Chicuata 2:21:14

Okay Thank you Jamil. I see Ms. Marion Jones with their hand up. Ms. Jones?

Brittni Chicuata 2:21:21

Okay. I would like to put forth that the Reverend Dr. Amos C. Brown, be the chair of this Advisory Committee because of his experience in this community for so many years, and I just think that he will be a good a good chair.

James Lance Taylor 2:21:48

I want to honor the second that nomination.

Brittni Chicuata

Well, as a as a member cannot make—

James

I'm sorry, that was a committee. Yeah, no. You know where I stand. All right. Thank you. Are there any other members of the public who would like to comment on committee nominations? Okay, seeing none public testimony is closed. So now I will open the floor for nominations to the position of chairperson of the African American reparations Advisory Committee. So committee members, please indicate you'd like to speak by raising your hand and then put forward your nomination.

Okay, I saw Anietie's hand up.

Anietie Ekanem 2:22:50

I actually want to go ahead and nominate Eric McDonnell. He's the one who stepped up early. Like last time, I think he has a lot of great experience on the finance side, adventure that can sort of help the economic argument. And I think last time, one of the members of the public said something that I think is apropos. It's really necessary that people actually have time to do the job. Right. So if you're a busy person, I can totally understand that and I appreciate that. But you're gonna be a heavy lift. I think he can do it.

Brittini Chicuata 2:23:28

Okay. Do I have a second? Second the nomination? A second. Awesome. We have a second. So Eric McDonnell is one second. Thank you all. So we have been put forward first year person. And then Daniel, you had your hand up? You want to put forward a nomination? Thank you frozen. You can hear us you can indicate in the chat. Have a nomination that you'd like to

Unknown Speaker 2:24:20

actually nominate air Madonna myself.

Unknown Speaker 2:24:30

Can you hear me? Yeah, hear me now? Yes. Yeah. So I was saying, maybe turning your video off and that might be a connection issue. So if you turn your video off, it might work better. I'll just speak for now. I also wanted to nominate Eric. Also, like, don't think I'll second wouldn't need to say. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker 2:25:10

Okay, so are there any additional nominations? Any other names that committee members would like to put forward?

Unknown Speaker 2:25:21

Okay, I don't have the raise your hand feature. I would like to nominate Reverend Brown. Okay, thank you. Do I have a second? I'll second that. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker 2:25:35

Are there any other names that folks would like to put forward for chairperson? Okay, seeing none. I'm nominations for the 2021, chairperson of the African American reparations Advisory Committee are now closed. So we have two different nominations. And each committee member must state the name of their selections. So Juell Stewart is going to call the roll. And when she calls your name, you say who you're voting for. You only get to vote for what? you vote for either. Reverend Brown, or Mr. McDonald. I see. Yeah,

Unknown Speaker 2:26:21

was there an opportunity to hear if they want to accept those positions? And then why? Like tell someone asked that ahead of this. Yep. Yep. I agree with that. Okay, not accept the position, but accept the nomination? Excuse me. Okay.

Unknown Speaker 2:26:37

I'll go through the names as they were nominated. So Eric McDonald, do you accept this nomination? And would you like to say any words about why so or if not,

Eric McDonnell 2:26:48

I do accept and appreciate the interest in opportunity. Well, I guess what I would offer is, I'm sorry, we cannot hear Mr. McDonald. Okay. I'm sorry. I'll try and speak a little louder. I'm Brown. So what I would say is yes, one that I accept the nomination, too. I think that we have collective resilience on this committee. And so I'm clearest I think, on what my contributed superpowers are. I don't have the historical legacy and brilliance of Dr. Brown or James Taylor. I don't have the street cred like Rico, and many others. But I know my superpower is leading and facilitating and supporting and holding space for brilliant folks like you to move an agenda. I bring passion and purpose to this agenda, and would be honored to help support it in this way. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker 2:27:45

Thank you, Reverend Dr. Brown, would you accept this nomination? And would you like to say a few words if so, or if not,

Reverend Brown 2:27:52

I accept your nomination. because number one, I love Black folk. Number two, I have the national and international connection to make sure that the spotlight stays on San Francisco. Number three, I have the practical know how of bringing people together and making a Dream Team. Not to be an authoritarian, but to be a communitarian, Democratic leader. And finally, it is late in the evening. And we need someone who has intestinal fortitude as a sense of history as a practice, having passed a third Baptist Church for 45 years now, and still going strong. I beg you, to let the old man be the support to bring this dream to pass. We can do it. But we got to master the pronoun we now do not them, but we and I trust that you will support us in this vision, not for me. Or for the people, the people the people is important thing. And our generations coming following. And when we do this, we come to them today and say look what we did. And we will be a stellar, significant solid stop brilliantly shining. But I have a passion for that. feel more center. We don't say that last corner that's in the bottle there. The Fillmore will be no more and ultimately this Black community will be in extinction. Thank you. All right.

Brittini Chicuata 2:29:57

So Anietie You have your hand up still? Do you have something else?

Anietie 2:30:05

Yeah, I actually want to just ask a question of both the candidates actually. And that question is simply, do you have the time to do this? I think one of the things that's really not the will, we all have the will, and we understand that. But I'm specifically talking about the time, simply because people who are in multiple committees doing a number of great things in our community, right, they just, this is going to take up so much time that I'm really, really concerned about people's ability to actually work, the work that needs to be done here versus all the other responsibilities that are going on, I'd like to hear from both the candidates on that.

Dr. Davis 2:30:42

And if I could just add to that, sorry, Brittini Chicuata, what I want to say across the board, and just, you know, on a selfish level, is that we really be intentional. Everybody on this call about being collaborative, and the spirit in which we work. And just, like, let's just make sure that whatever we're doing, like, it's not about what we say here tonight, it's about what we do outside of this call. And like this is a big push, it's a heavy lift. And we have to be truly collaborative, not just at this point in time, but at all times. So hopefully, we all continue to show up, we all continue to be supportive, and encouraging and building each other up. So I just want to say that's a task for not just the chair, but also for the members. And so whoever you all, appoint and select this chair, you have to be collaborative with them as well.

James 2:31:34

And I want to jump in real quick. And ask both nominees if they could sort of tell us what they you know, what reparations Have you given thought---

Brittini Chicuata 2:31:45

Yeah, I think we have to have the chance to respond to Anietie's question first. Anietie asked you both Mr. McDonnell. And Reverend Brown--

Reverend Brown 2:31:59

My brother, I know how to do good time management. And then always engage capable people with me, and not to do it. So the question of time when accepted a nomination, if I did not have the time?

Eric 2:32:24

Yes. short answer is yes. I have the time the other primary kind of civic responsibility I have is serving as a commission and Rec and park commission. And I'll be cycling off of that next month. Just that, yes, I have sufficient time to invest in this body of work. Thank you.

James 2:32:42

question was for both of you. If you could sort of talk about if you've given any thought to what reparations might look like?

Reverend Brown 2:32:54

Oh, yes, have you given a lot of thought. I've done a whole lot of reading. I know a whole lot of people who have been about not just the conversation, but about the push to bring up about reparations. And when it comes to specificities of it, the group will collectively after ideas have been laid on the table, come to the point of what we will make here locally as our focus. I have a personal I still put up at the top of the list. education, education, education, even during this pandemic, what are the authorities say that those who were not enlightened enough to know how to negotiate their way through the pandemic are the ones who we're disproportionately from our community, who unfortunately lost their lives I became infected. I would say in addition to education, you got to have good health, you got to have a healthy community, you're not going to do anything. If you don't know how to manage your nutrition, if you don't know how to take care of preventive and corrective health opportunities and push forward. So we got to have a healthy commitment to healthy mind, healthy community. Then you got to have economic empowerment is a shame. Before God been appalled at all the apostles and the founders of religion, that in this community, the medium income for Black people between 20 to \$30,000 a year, but fall White is 110,000 for Asians between 70 and 80 thousand that is an indication that people won't have bread to go on the table.

And yet, in addition to that, you look around this city, who is getting the contracts to rebuild infrastructure, not us, who's out there. You see us every now and then hold up a sign to direct traffic. But we're not getting that economic empowerment from getting contracts from the city and from the private sector. Then we need jobs that come about through education and through training for jobs in this high tech world. That economic empowerment is very important. And along with that goes land. We lost too much land, National 1900, we own about 17 million acres of land, now we're down to about two and a half million acres of land is owned by Black folk. So we need to have some home ownership in this town and not just be renters. How do you do that? You got to have a middle class. How do you get to middle class, you got to attract them here, you got to have a practical program. We can have everybody not putting down people who live in public housing. But people who live in public housing, have not had the immediate track record and experience of having the kind of jobs to compete, even for housing in the city. And then we need to deal with her has been complicit in the pushing out of Black folks.

For example, they even have had the rule that we took them on as NAACP about saying that you don't have to advertise in Black papers, sound reporters, the Pope's in new Bayview, but only in unrepresented papers, and a lot of times is housing and homeownership have been available. And folks have not known about it. The call somebody up at the top made the bad public policy.

Reverend Brown 2:37:16

And then we have this lottery is lottery system, a system that has been kicking us all around. And nobody told us from day one, that you could get a place even if you live in a foreign country. You do not let us know that there wasn't there was no local residents required. And consequently, that's really why, as I quoted earlier, you have these old developments that were developed by the blood, sweat and tears of Black folks, labor people and trades people. And yet, we have been pushed out of those units because of bad public policy and practices. And then we need the addition to that good. cracker jack, public policy dealing with crime. That gives restorative justice Yes. All the way from the prison system. But making sure also that those persons who just won't change won't turn around, that they will be removed from where we are, so they won't cause pain and injury and death to our children and to our citizenry. We got to deal with that issue of restorative justice and criminal justice in this town. And then on this matter of homelessness. That's another ancillary issue. Remember the position and opinion at any given time, but I wrap it up to say, all the areas and above. I have thought about them not done things about him. track records. There's a Conservatory of Music for our children back on track, freedom school, all of the things that are the doing, and not just talking, not just analyzing, but making sure we do. The US was a spike lee the right thing for Black folks in San Francisco.

Dr. Davis 2:39:21

Thank you. And Leticia, I will answer your question after Eric McDonnell is able to respond.

Eric 2:39:31

So I appreciate the question, James. And what I'd say is, yes, I've thought long and hard about the issues of reparations and the brief frame, I would lift up this the two things, one, that reparations is about repairing and restoring the building and giving capacity to move forward. We've spent 400 years and I believe the context of reparations ought to look forward At least 400 years, if not longer, and therefore, a both short term, how do we heal the current harms that we'll talk about tonight. And then how do we then cast forward both from a policy practice, as well as political context, all of the ways in which we can ensure Black folks are repaired, and then

invested in for strong and vibrant futures, I actually believe that starts with a cornerstone of economics, and that we build on that, that enables folks to have their own agency.

When you look at every single institution that this country has built, none of them were built for us to thrive, not one of them. And so while abolition would be ideal is not practical. And therefore, the ways in which we can go as close to abolition reforming these institutions as possible, as well as having the capacity to build and shape our own institutions that were no longer reliant upon the broken system to kind of write itself, and then carry us forward. And so where I would agree 100%, with Reverend Brown, that ultimately, while I have ideas, thoughts, certainly things that I will put on the table for the committee to, to consider, I see my role as if given the opportunity as chair to hold space and facilitate to assure that a, we get the benefit of the brilliance around this table, so to speak, and then drive a course forward. So I look forward to that opportunity.

Dr. Davis 2:41:40

Thanks, and Brittini Chicuata responded in the chat, but I just wanted to follow up with the question around the role of the chair, the main role of the chair would be to do as Britney and you know, and I've been interrupted her tonight doing but to facilitate and hopefully, in some ways, expedite the meetings, as we have a lot to cover in a little bit of time. And so the role of the chair is to actually in the future Juell Stewart, and the chair will be the folks moving us through the agenda. And then the role of the chair will be to work with the HRC to set the agendas and to make sure that the subcommittees and other things are happening. I mean, I think just to piggyback on what both Reverend Brown and Eric MacDonald mentioned, you all are the committee The chair is not necessarily the spokesperson of this committee, and is not it's great to hear what they want to what they think but their voices are equal in the group. So their ideas and thoughts about how reparations should roll out would be part of the group's discussion in the same manner. So it's good to know where they stand, but it's still open discussion and room for debate. But the role of the chair is to help the to actually moderate and facilitate and move the meeting.

Brittini Chicuata 2:43:02

That is the thank you for the clarity. Okay, thank you all for your questions. So we're going to move forward with the vote now. And so Juell Stewart is going to call the roll. And when your name is called, please announce the name of the nominee you're voting for. And you have to say one name or the other. You cannot abstain. So Juell Stewart Thank you.

Nominees from the floor for Chair of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee: Eric McDonnell, Reverend Amos Brown

Eric McDonnell: Eric McDonnell, Gloria Berry, Tiffany Walker-Carter, Anietie Ekanem, Omerede Hamilton, Starr Williams, Yolanda Harris,

Reverend Amos Brown: James Lance Taylor, Reverend. Amos Brown, Daniel Landry, Gwendolyn Brown, Laticia Erving, Shakeyla O'Cain

Absent: Tinish Hollins, Nikcole Cunningham

13 votes to accept transcription as submitted.

Juell Stewart 2:43:28

Eric McDonald has received seven votes. And Reverend Brown has received six votes. So with two members absent. So Eric McDonald has been elected Chairperson of African American reparations advisory committee. Thank you.

Brittni Chicuata 2:46:06

As Juell Stewart said, congratulations, Eric McDonnell, and your election to serve as the chairperson of the African American reparations Advisory Committee, Chair McDonald will become the efficient of the meeting moving forward and lead the discussion about the election of any supporting officers to this body at a future meeting, which we'll be doing today. But because that was not agendized, but I'm chair McDonald, would you like to say a few words to your fellow committee members and the public?

Eric 2:46:32

First of all, I am honored by the opportunity given to me and the confidence. And absolutely, again, appreciate the opportunity we have collectively to really transform the city of San Francisco, in terms of its indebtedness to Black people. And I certainly look forward to as I said, prior to the vote, really leveraging all of the brilliance. I look forward to trying to leverage all of the brilliance that that makes up this committee. And I do believe that we have opportunity. While the window given us as two years, I believe we have an opportunity both to address the current pain and harm that Black people are experiencing and build an agenda that could in fact, take us two years, I'm not suggesting we take it because we have it, but that we not see the opportunity if we have been harmed for too long to raise to, you know, quick fixes or. But I also do believe that there are current harms, we want to address as quickly as possible. And I don't know that there's anything in terms of the charter that prevents us from doing just that. The current

issues such as Fillmore corridor, and the Heritage Center, issues that were raised by a number of members in terms of public housing, and the ways in which folks are living and stuff, substandard conditions. I don't know that we I don't believe rather that we need to wait for any length of time before beginning to craft practice policy and shifts that we think are necessary Now, while we build a long end sustaining or sustainable agenda for Black people in San Francisco, and all of the repair, financial and otherwise that our folk are do so again, I'm just honored for the opportunity, look forward to our collective work together, time to roll up our sleeves, and really get to work. So thank you very much. Excellent.

Brittni Chicuata 2:48:50

I believe the Secretary will be sending you an agenda and I'm actually going to hand over the rest of the meeting to you. And you will be beginning with Agenda Item Number six.

**6. REVERENDIEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS DEFINED IN THE
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN REPARATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE, FILE NO. 201190 (Discussion Item)
Public Comment**

Eric 2:49:03

So we will go to agenda item number six. Juell Stewart, will you call item number six please.

Juell Stewart 2:49:10

Yes, try to hold on just a moment I was about to send you this. Sending this agenda we are going to move on. And sorry. Item. The second item on the agenda is Review responsibilities and goals and define the ordinance establishing the African American reparations Advisory Committee, file number 201190. This is a discussion item. And we will I we need to I'd like to welcome the executive director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Dr. Sheryl Evans Davis to help lead this discussion. Dr. Davis The floor is yours.

Dr. Davis 2:50:01

Cathy, did you already share out with folks, I think we were going to just Revisit the mandates of this body. But I think really what we want to do and I will entertain conversation around that is just to highlight that we are supposed to be making recommendations that will go forward to the board, we have, I think six months from last meet, because this this is what month is this July, we have six months from June to submit our first report to the board. So wanted to just hear from the body. What is your What is your pleasure in terms of structure? Right? Do we want to have subcommittees because the work of this body is not going to happen in these monthly meetings? So

what does that look like? What is it that folks are willing to do? And then do? Well, we'll be following up with folks if and I may have missed this part already, just in terms of the compensation for committee members. And if you want that, and if you don't, if you want to make the donation somewhere else, so we need to, like that part is separate. There's the ability for compensation, but that is tied to doing the work that is more than although hourly wage for this meeting looks like you may be depending on how long these go. Very well be compensated for your time on these monthly calls. Sorry, yeah. Eight o'clock. wanted to just see from folks. subcommittees, what is your pleasure, two, three, none. How are we going to move this work? And what are the areas of focus? So we've already heard housing, we've already heard concerns around economic and workforce development, have already heard the pieces around education. So I see any j has his hand up. And Catherine Mulkey Meyer, is this relevant to point of order? Or are you responding to a question I, I do feel like we do need to have a discussion about electing if we're going to have a vice chair, we need to discuss that tonight. Because the legislation does not specify any additional official offices besides the chair person. If we want to elect a vice chair, we have to vote to have that nomination process and agendize it during the next meeting so the public can have time to participate and know that we are going to be seeing those nominations and elections. Thank you. And through the chair, I'm going to recommend that we go through this process, and then leave the remaining items for the next meeting. And then and then folks can say whether they want a vice chair to vice chairs, like however that wants and then we'll agendize that for a future meeting. So the questions that I'm asking right now, and we're going to take note on and that we need to actually make some final decisions on tonight, which is why I'm recommending that we do not that we continue the last one the numbers this.

Eric 2:53:10

This is item number six, so we would be continuing 7, 8 and 9

Reverend Brown 2:53:16

Dr. Davis? Time is of the essence. I hope we would look at this number one item. That heritage building there and the Fillmore. Okay. Sorry, two other people were waiting. I thought you were gonna say something? Oh, I thought you were recognizing. Yeah, sorry.

Anietie 2:53:59

I think technically, we actually did say that we wanted a vice chair from our last meeting. So I don't think we need to vote on that or second that again. You know, but please correct me if I'm wrong, because I think in the agenda when just a mistake, but it was only

that the chair this time versus vice chair and chair that will have to be agendize in the next meeting.

Dr. Davis 2:54:19

So we still so the vote would be agendize. And then I would also argue although I need to look back at the minutes and the time, we may have discussed the position, but we didn't vote on it. Okay, so the vice chair is not in the legislation. So we would need to vote still on that. Okay. We are in agreement to both vote on the Vice Chair if people would like to have multiple vice chairs that is also up for we can add that as well.

Anietie 2:54:45

Yeah. So then on that. I was actually one of the people who just stepped forward and said, Hey, do we actually have any people who self identify as women right to sort of to be vice chair, because I think it's really important that we have actually gender parity also. And also, I think considering the work that we want to do, right actually potentially get into a model where we're actually really implementing something very quickly testing sort of, you know, in that sort of timeframe that we actually have more than just one Vice Chair we actually might want to entertain, to, to help. So to split up that executive work, I think a little bit better, to better ensure a our timeline, and actually getting the work done. So it's not just all on one person, our Chairman, Mr. McDonald, but can potentially be sort of split up around, you know, he to potentially even three sort of vice chairs, like depending on how big or how fast we want to go. So that we can sort of, I mean, really sort of keep intact, but I'm suggesting to vice chairs, not just one.

Dr. Davis 2:55:54

Right, well, we will add that to the agenda for next meeting, and we will vote on it, and then we'll vote on the vice chair, considering that that that passes the first round. Thank you, Leticia, and then Reverend Brown.

Leticia 2:56:10

Hi. So you asked us what do we want to do how we want to roll this out? I absolutely think subcommittee's are necessary. I think that this work has got to start now. And I know that these meetings and I was wonder I was just wondering how this was going to work. Because in these meetings, we are one of the things that we're doing, which I think is beautiful is that we're amplifying Black voices. And people are calling in and telling us what they think needs to happen. reparations are how we must act even making us aware of things that are happening right now in this community in our communities. But there has to be another way what we're hearing from other voices that

are not able to call in. And I don't so whether that is a survey that goes out which we know that not all of our families are going to respond to that survey. So we have to think about another way of hitting the pavement. And I don't know if that is us that does that. And so I was a little questions about who does that part? Right? So is it this group? Because we do need to hear the voices of the Black community, we need to analyze what they're saying. But is it us as one out to seek that information? are we creating the surveys? And if so that task just be given to us? So we know that we're doing the work? One of the things that Gwen talked about, was this analysis that cost analysis? Are we able to hire someone to do that? Who does that particular work? Because I think that's another body of work that we need to break up and see, like, Who's going to do what are we outsourcing? Who are those consultants? What kind of money are we working with? Do we have money to move these type of things? I just those are things I don't know. And I wasn't sure about and I'd like some clarity. And then in terms of the subcommittee's, I'm down for it, you asked three, nine, I feel like there are so many areas that we will just be split into itty bitty pieces if we do all that. And so I'm wondering how do we combine some of those and whether it's like economic justice? Or, you know, I don't know, I just don't know how to couple them. But what I'm hoping we won't do is that we will not break out into nine different subcommittee groups. Right? That's a lot. And I'm just so I just wanted to put that out there, can we please think about how we synthesize those?

Dr. Davis 2:58:09

Right, so to your question, we can definitely think about if, and again, this is the will of the body. So if you all say that you want a group to help with outreach and engagement, or if you would rather, you know, pay folks in community and, you know, leverage relationships that Daniel and when and Tiffany and Rico have to have them, you know, give stuff out and have other people pass out surveys and community we can leverage that as well. There's a limited budget with the with this this Advisory Committee, but that we can leverage some of the evaluation assessment dollars that are assigned for the dream people initiative to be able to help with that. And I would say that the evaluation and assessment, the data analysis piece, data collection needs to be done by community, we need to figure that out. But the data analysis we can definitely leverage some relationships and resources to do that level of it. But this body needs to figure out if it's not tonight, but that what the outreach and engagement piece should be.

Right? What's the outreach and engagement? How do you want to build that is that you know, the collective will body or is that individuals all? I think it's the responsibility of everybody on this

committee to help without reaching engagement. Some people may have stronger relationships in one neighborhood than another or with one community than another but there's room for that as a follow up question, just because she just finished her last she had a follow up question and then we'll go to red Brown, or just one just to finish this up. The last one is every time we meet unless we are in subcommittees can that just be explained to me again about when it's quorum and when you can't meet and yeah, just curious how that works. So there are 15 people on the body We are trying to stay at less than seven people in a meeting. So we avoid quorum. So subcommittees need to be seven or less. And I would say just six to be to be safe, so that we can think about it in that context. There are 15 people on this body because if we get a quorum, then we have to agendize. And it changes the way we in which we can.

Dr. Davis 3:00:23

Thank you. Hello. Okay, Reverend Brown is that you? Reverend Brown and then Tiffany. And then Gloria. You muted now Reverend Brown

Reverend Brown 3:00:44

We talked about inclusivity. Everybody working on the team, that we would have immediately our assigned areas to meet in the community. So that will be official representative of people from the Advisory Committee at the lesson and post.

Eric 3:01:19

a quick question on that. And do you mean assigned by geography or what? When you say assigned?

Reverend Brown 3:01:28

What I will be the fair equitable distribution to cover the subject. Yeah. So where is where we have people basically, live in and make it convenient for them.

Dr. Davis 3:01:46

So Reverend Brown, and Chair with we can actually we can plan some listening sessions to your point, Reverend Brown, and then ask people to host or we can look at organizing that between now and the next meeting. Is that then Reverend Brown, just to go back to your initial earlier in terms of maybe to the tissues, point two, we can think about committees in terms of immediate kind of short term projects, medium and long term so that we can get to some of those things that you identified specifically around the hair, or and other

Reverend Brown 3:02:20

That, that that heritage building, we need to nail that down, we need to deal with the mayor's office and the board and get that behind us,

or else it would be lost. And we and number two, the housing issue. The housing issue, these developments were developed by Black folks. We are not there. We don't have our fair share. And would you turn that around? Yeah. Okay. And then we have the other major items. But this I know these two areas, we are in trouble big trouble them.

Reverend Brown

Okay. Thank you, Tiffany. Gloria, Professor Taylor—

Tiffany Walker-Carter 3:03:14

I just want to say, as we talked about getting analysis and things like that, I definitely want to encourage us to look at reports that have already been made, because a lot have already been made. I think we know, primarily what our issues is. And as we was selected to have these seats, I think I definitely want to get our community in the habit of trusting us to make executive decisions, because we need to move. And a lot of people are going to have a lot of different opinions as far as what you know, everybody needs.

But as a whole, we know we need housing, and we know we need small business. And we know we need space, those are three things that we focus in on at Black Wall Street, but just on a broader scale for this committee, maybe we break this up committees down in three areas, three or four, policy, housing, small business, in space, and we can tackle those areas. But I don't want to get too, too caught up in an analysis and reports and all that stuff. Because I think the data is already there. We know what we need. And I'd rather spend my time focus on how we can get some of this stuff handled and happen and look for some immediate results as far as reparations and be very creative with how we do that. I know, I was just a part of a reparations where people brought my food at a certain amount of money, you know, so I think we could be very creative with how we think about reparations. So I just want to put that out there and, and definitely break down the subcommittee's into at least four groups and let's get to business. Tiffany, what do you mean by spin space we talk. In our group SF Black Wall Street we talk a lot about, it's a new term, it's called spatial justice. So you know, just having space to do to be Black to be at a park, you know, making sure that we have allocated public space in San Francisco. You know, cell parks and things like that outdoor space.

Dr. Davis

Thank you. Thank you. So, Gloria Berry, James Taylor. Thank you.

Gloria 3:05:43

To Reverend Brown's point about the immediacy needed for that Heritage Center. I just want to know if the legislation that formed this body would even allow us to make a short term move because legislation seems to emphasize on a report that's due. But if we can get new legislation or amend the legislation to make short term moves, I definitely think carrots and Senate is a priority, and an easy fast thing that could be done. And then as far as committees, I would like to see whether it be collectively so we don't have nine committees, but definitely have a settlement committee, whether it be collected with another committee, and then a policy one, the previous speaker mentioned the policy and that that I think really needs to be emphasized, because policy causes poverty. So thank you.

Dr. Davis 3:06:44

Thank you. And I think that I don't know that we need to amend or do anything with the legislation, I think if this body quickly wants to make recommendations and members of the body are willing to speak to the powers that be and have a strong case, I think the other pieces around the data that's already been collected, like what's the narrative, what's the story and being able to identify where the funds come from. And that's going to require some, some research and other things in terms of advocacy, or even just policy. So I think, if you get the committee's together, then we can, we can push those things forward, and folks can move and bring it to the body to vote on to do that. Dr. Taylor, then Anietie then Starr.

James 3:07:33

is allowed to have townhall meetings with the community early, so we can get their input early to inform whatever we develop. That's the first question. And then I also want to echo support for the Fillmore Heritage Center is really important. I don't have time to go into any detail. But there's a real deep history in Harlem, where Black people did not fight for the Adam Clayton Powell state building. And they were and it's hard to explain. But when they gave up that building, and did not fight for that one building right at and now we've seen gentrification. So when Reverend Brown is talking about that building, please see it as the way you see Juneteenth. It's that thing that we have to have some place to call home. So we got the churches, we have other Christians, but we have to have this center that is multi purpose, and it feeds into the culture and that we are present and alive is very important that we fight for the Heritage Center. And so for short term thing, and we should get behind that. And that the last thing I'll say is, can we get the city to make the injury, the city attorney or the city, the people with the brains and the math and the were with all already being paid by tax dollars? Can we get them to do the work?

Dr. Davis 3:09:04

So I missed some of what you said, but people are nodding. So I guess the answer is yes. Well, I'll--

Eric 3:09:11

I'll just restate the last part of the Dr. Davis, which is for some of the research has centered that we are looking to have done can we get city resources as in city people who already being paid to do it?

Dr. Davis 3:09:24

So I will just say and again, I work for the city, so don't want nobody that works for the city to be offended. But I would prefer not. I think that we should center like first and foremost, I think some of what's been said already the bias of the city like the planning department, Tiffany mentioned this, they've already done a report around African Americans and what the city did to them. The there there's a lot of work that's been done. I would not trust the city to necessarily say they should give you what you deserve. So I think that we have to do some stuff with folks that are a little bit on voice from outside. Yeah, that's my opinion, I would prefer to use city money to get Black centered voices to tell the story versus folks that work for the city. So again, no offense, because I work for the city. But you know, I'm just stating my opinion.

Eric 3:10:26

Thank you. Dr. Davis, a process question. I know, we're trying to land on kind of committee structure and scope. In terms of process. Do we need to land tonight? Do we need to vote? What have you? Yes, so we would just make recommendations tonight, what we will do is Cathy, Juell Stewart, and I will combine that with that, combine those tonight, and then we will send that out to you all for review. And then I would say at the next meeting, we will this is in folks need to get ready for this because we're going to try and not just talk through them all or to do the vote blah, blah, blah, we may do a minty, or some other kind of poll that we do on the spot. And we're going to go with the top four, right, or the top three, whatever it is that folks decide. I think it sounds like to me already, we can probably land with policy, because that's come up with numerous folks. And that allows for education that allows for some of the big bucket items, I think some of the other pieces around settlements, or economic or space, like those are some other big buckets, but I think we can group a lot of them. We will share that out with folks and then just come back prepared to vote on the next time because tonight was just discussion.

Eric 3:11:41

One thing I suggest Dr. Davis and that is, again, given that there are short term, Heritage Center and other things like that. And then longer term, it might be some forethought to think about as we as we go forward, which is having each of the committee's take that frame of short term and long term buy in every area because I think that there are potentially opportunities for us to leverage across the mall.

Dr. Davis 3:12:11

Right. So to that I would just say to folks Tiffany already shared in some of that, like the Heritage Center fits into the space, please. Space piece some other folks have talked about housing policy really gets us to the big bucket. And then I would just say to the point that Gloria made around settlements, so I think that the actual giving of resources or whatever we call that bigger bucket around because I think the question about the Heritage Center is less about giving Black folks the building and more about who's going to pay for it. Right, who's going to cover that cost. And that's where I think the settlement or the cash advance or the cash transfer or the resource transfer. So I think whoever's on that, in my opinion, again, you all will decide later, but whoever's on like the settlement or cash transfer piece, has to really talk about how the city makes a decision about how much money goes to reparations, reparations, and how that money gets how that money gets dispersed. Right. So the disbursement pieces is a large part of the conversation because, yes, we can use dream keeper dollars in some way at some point in time now. But again, if we're not building a long term strategy, when Mayor Breed is no longer mayor, and President Walton is no longer President of the Board of Supervisors, what are we doing to build and ensure that folks don't come in and say, well, we already did the Black thing. Now it's time to move on to somebody else. And let's pull that money. So we got to have some long term strategies about like how this is sustained. And what that looks like when we're all when this thing, sunshine. So I just dropped that into your, into your spirits there. And the taste star and then the aspect to my stamina church, sorry, y'all. Forgive me.

Anietie 3:13:58

So for me, I think it's actually important, even if it's a short term, and something that I'm totally willing to work on is actually quantifying all of this, because that's one of the things that speaker actually talked to, first and foremost, all the other questions about how it's going to get done and everything else. Those are us sort of take you off of your sort of game, right. And I actually want to so I actually want to use all the reports, because one of the things, I was actually part of the forming Committee for the African American arts and culture district, one of the things I

pushed there, and it didn't quite get implemented was simply the fact that we do have these reports, but we've never quantified our loss, not once. So you read them. And it's this sort of laundry list of stuff. No one ever said. And this is not, you know, necessarily like the math, but no one ever said, Oh, by removing that homeownership from the film by removing Black folks, that was actually a \$3 billion loss in 1969. That's where I want to get to, because once we quantify that number, and we're able to say you know what, this is actually a trillion dollar cost. conversation that's different from going, Oh, we want a bunch of stuff. It's a trillion dollar conversation, then we can actually back into a bunch of other things. Now for me, it's, I want that. So we can quantify, we have our number, we can move forward, but it doesn't stop any of the other work that has to sort of happen. And I'm a big believer in actually doing the short term wins to test our hypotheses over and over again, as opposed to waiting two years to try to figure anything out.

Dr. Davis 3:15:29

Yeah, I mean, I totally echo that. And I think that is the line with what Gloria was saying, in terms of settlements, right, like, we have to get to a number in order to in my, in how I interpret it. Starr?

Starr 3:15:43

Hi, Director Davis. Um, so for committees, we it can really be like four, because like some, some topics intersect with each other. So like economics, business intersect with that, but also that can be put into the priority of the Heritage Center. And also housing, which is a big one, which can be alone by itself, because housing is just a big overall topic, and also education and health. So can be intersected with each other too. But also justice, everybody in this committee was elected upon title. So like me, I am a youth that is serving the African American, I'm a part of volunteer or work at the African American organization. And so I can be a put upon housing and education based on my organization I work under. So somebody like, let's say, Dr. Reverend Amos Brown. He's a senior, which means that he can be put under housing too, because due to this situations of Black seniors in San Francisco, and so somebody like Rico can be put into justice because he was formerly incarcerated. So something like that is like, had to, like put upon to so yeah. Right, and how we assign folks.

Dr. Davis

Thanks for that, Starr

James 3:17:08

I just have a quick question about whether or not Director Davis, we can hire a forensic accounting firm, or something like that, that

could actually enumerate all of the things that we say, you know, in terms of the injuries, can we hire some entity that, you know, like Illinois, Evanston, they just threw out 10 million. That was a I don't know, I think that was arbitrary amount that they threw out. But I wonder if we can get, because we're gonna have to show this to people as a part of the propaganda and the politics is to show a legitimate firm has come in and looked from top to bottom at the reports, and the what those reports indicate in terms of the costs, in terms of the big numbers that they can manage, so that we can come back and say, here's the ticket. I'm just wondering if we can do that.

Dr. Davis 3:17:56

So what I would suggest, again, is people are making the recommendations, we are at the beginning of the fiscal year, the beginning of the budget, you know, folks are asking about additional funds to be pulled from dream keeper dollars that have already been allocated, we need to kind of cost the stuff out pretty quickly. You know, there is a essentially, I will say, like 100 grand for this committee portion of which is meant to cover stipends for the group. So the group has to really make a decision around the \$100,000. And what it is that folks want to see happen over this next fiscal year and how you want that money divvied up, and maybe that's something to agendize for the next meeting, you want a portion to go for somebody to do. forensics is all I remember, sorry, Professor Taylor, but that we want the forensic analysis that there's the let this other layer of work, data analysis, or compiling the information or costing out what it would take to do that, or looking at the city budget and looking at where we could pull money from? Yeah, we can do that. But you know, how much is that going to cost? And can we do it in one year? Or would we have to spread it? When do we need the layaway plan? So I don't know if there are I don't see any other hands and I just want to remind that we need to go to public comment. And then before we can close this out so this was discussion first for you all and then we want to get public comments.

Starr

So Gwen is texting me that she's trying to raise her hand---

Gwen Brown 3:19:37

um, I just like what Mr. Taylor's maybe suggested and maybe in our approach, I'm not sure if it's the best one for the subcommittee's but just maybe to consider the three P's, policy, politics and public. I think if we possibly use that type of framework, it might help us streamline the message and the messaging so that we can engage with the community and have a clear message that is understandable and relatable. Because I think perception is

definitely reality. And so if we can, if we can brand this message, you know, reparations that is digestible for the public and use cost benefit analysis to help make that cause I think that framework could help us in selling it. Because I think that's part of how we have to embrace this, we have to campaign. And so I just wanted to just throw that out there.

Dr. Davis

Thank you, Laticia, and then we will go to public.

Laticia 3:20:39

I said this in the chat. And I know that I didn't do it to the attendees. But in our panelists chat is just that. Yes, I agree that we have been putting these positions because we were selected, we were selected by the board. And I know our community has faith in us too. And so hopefully the community will know that we are with all the different expertise that this this table that we are having their best interest in really hearing their voices, but I just don't want I want to make sure that when we regurgitate everything that we say comes back to Yep. And we heard that from directly from the community. Yep. In this case, because I don't ever want to want to say where they get that from, if whatever we're articulating back out.

And so when we think about our subcommittees, really going back, and I think I'm what I referenced was this framework for Reparations that was sent out to the panelists, and I'm not sure how public this document has been made. But it listed out some four priorities, right, and I and those priorities, as Starr said, can be categorized somewhere else. But then there's a table and the tables a bit repetitive. But in this table, it also lists out and I know that came from the community. So I just want to make sure whatever we do, were able to articulate this is why we chose those communities, because what we heard from you all was that violence and over policing, and criminalization is super important to you. So that's why we're going to do justice, or this is why whatever, whether it's the three P's, or however we do it, that when we speak and when we put it in writing, that folks can see their voices.

Dr. Davis 3:22:03

Yeah, no, I appreciate that. And I just want to stress to the quickest way to kill an effort is to do it based on and we all have been on the other side of this where we'd be like, did nobody come talk to me? Right? It's my first I heard about it, I didn't. So I understand that there have been addition, there have been previous studies and all of that. But we know there are a bunch of folks in my in my local mini Park and my local, you know, corner store, right

there, whether it's Charlie's or whatever, I know that there are folks that are like, wait, reparations, what, what are they giving out money. And they will be like that. Nobody asked me what I wanted to do with it. So we do need to like make sure that as we do this, that they'd be like, Well, that was my grandmother that y'all ask you didn't ask me. So I hear you. Let's see, shall we? We'll make sure to do every effort, because I do not need to have somebody stand up and tell me that, you know, oh, yeah, that was a waste of time. Because you didn't, you didn't come down my street. So we will open it now for public comment. And I will turn it back to you. Well, and I do see Ms. Jones has her hand up Juell Stewart if you want to call people for public. unmute yourself too. Thank you very much. No problem.

Juell Stewart:

I will call on Ms. Felisa Jones next.

Phelicia Jones:

All right, thank you, I just want to go back to the issue around the Heritage Center, and having Black spaces. And I know there was some conversation of, you know, what could be done as you guys are part of the task force. And what came to my mind was, you know, everybody on here is Black. And if the space that we need, you know, if you can't fight that for that space while you on the task force, then step out of the task force and fight for that space anyway. You know, I'm saying so don't allow the task force to hold you back on things that Black folks need to be advocating for and fighting for. And so that just kind of struck me and I wanted to share that a little bit.

Juell Stewart

Thank you. Next up on Ranon Ross, followed by Katherine Campbell.

Ranon

Can you hear me?

Juell Stewart

Yes, we can.

Ranon Ross 3:24:34

Okay, just a couple of questions. One, can we please employ meaning this body and economist ASAP to investigate the economic viability of the San Francisco budget to pay for reparation in the most efficient way that doesn't cripple San Francisco that goes directly to Dr. Taylor and Gwen's concept about policy we cannot begin to talk to people about are we actually. We've done our homework and have our talking points in order. Also, can we employ a forensic accountant to

review every county of San Francisco income stream to determine the most feasible way to incorporate reparations? And what those are and how to pay for Reparations, in perpetuity, lack next question is, can the subcommittee commit their work, to writing to best ensure that the messaging is not lost, but clearly heard and understood from now until the end? And absolutely last? Can we also please consider that reparations in different forms, such as housing policy, workforce, employment practices, medical care, etc., that will be codified again, in city charter in perpetuity, so that any future administrations cannot undo the great work that you guys are embarking on? At this moment? Thank you. Thank you very much.

Katherine Campbell 3:26:14

Okay, I have two minutes, I might be shorter. But I have been praying for this day. And I am so honored to see you all and see you let God use you in this way. You know, the Heritage Center seems to be the, you know, priority. I, I totally agree with it. Because not only that, my grandmother's church, Reverend, and Galton, Lee Young mother young, they used to call our churches right there. Also, that's gone. The Heritage Center, we need to keep that we don't need that to be gone. So you know, I mean, just, you know, amongst other things in the community, I just commend you all. I'm a praying woman, and I have been praying for this day, and I see how God has is using you all. So I thank you all for it. Thank you so much.

Juell Stewart 3:27:09

Thank you very much. Dr. Mel Patterson, followed by Jon Henry.

Dr. Jamil Patterson 3:27:17

I want to thank you for this meeting. This has been informative. I have taken notes as well. I think clarity is king. So I would like to know, what exactly was it that the Board of Supervisors actually agreed to do? so sorry, so that we know what's on the table. And then I'm answering Leticia his question about allies, I think, um, you know, like, there's a lot of people in San Francisco, that politic offer Black problems anyway. So like, even getting the board of supervisors to make the decision, you know, down everyone we spoke, it was, it was about 50, liberals who was there for City College is about 20, or 30, wipey. What I got up and said, I support reparations. And why cuz they're liberals and progressive. So I think I think that's the way that we utilize that I think those C's are there. And then again, you know, I think clarity is key, you know, so I think in order for people to have an understanding, we need to know exactly. What did the Board of Supervisors actually agree to do in terms of reparations?

Dr. Davis

Thank you Jamil. And thank you for that.

I just want to clarify, too, that the Board of Supervisors has not agreed to do anything as of yet. Right. So right, this Advisory Committee, and they've agreed to look at the recommendations that this Advisory Committee puts forward. So that's, that's, you know, three, four pages or six pages in the legislation. That's basically what it boils down to. So it's the body and the people and the allies and other folks that are going to have to really work to make sure that this becomes more than just another paper on the show.

Juell Stewart

Thank you and Jon Henry?

Jon Henry 3:29:20

I just want to say, I've been listening to the conversation. And I think it's just, I hope we just don't get lost into the round around show. We got 5% or less Black people in San Francisco, we need to stay focused on San Francisco. The number that we need to be shooting for to start is we need to impact our community now. You know, people need services help now. \$2.5 million dollars for each Black San Franciscan. And tax breaks is where we need to be starting that through the tax breaks, we'll be able to bring that equity up, especially when we talk about homeowner taxes. We want to talk about payroll taxes and business taxes is where we want to look at. You know, here in the Bay View, majority of our home ownership was lost to unpaid taxes, as you know, elders died and young people that was taken over, couldn't afford it, the taxes push them out. That was like one way. So we found a way in reparations to eliminate the taxes, payroll, business taxes, that'll give our Black businesses opportunity to compete with the other businesses in San Francisco. That's where we got to really focus on the equity, we will waste a bunch of money getting a consultant to tell us a whole bunch of nothing.

It's only 5%, you look at our budget at the mayor put out, you know, if you gave that type of incentive is still when the pack the budget that much. And we still would have 50 other 54 other departments that would go out there legislatively, yeah, well, there's a lot of other stuff we can add to it. But when we start talking about the numbers, we got to look there, and 2.5 million with those type of tag breaks will really impact our city, our community. Especially I know, we talked about the African American Culture Center. But we need more homeownership, that's just one or a few spaces, and we just, you know, start focusing on a couple historic spaces, you know, that's still not enough to have full representation, right. So that that money will actually get people to buy houses back in San Francisco,

we need more home ownership so we can impact the school district the voting process. So I just hope people think at that number. And, you know, because we waste \$50,000, trying to figure out a consultant tell us what, give us 5% of Blacks have a case is 2.58 hours to get started. We're going to impact the whole city anyway. You know, he said, I just that's just what I think about it.

Juell Stewart 3:31:38

Thank you. Sorry. That's fine. Thank you. Would any other members of the public like to comment? Seeing nine public testimony is now close. Committee members, do you have any questions for Dr. Davis about the goals as defined by the legislation?

Dr. Davis 3:32:04

And Juell Stewart, I can read just to the last caller, because I know you put it in the chat as well, I can at least read that section of. So what the committee is meant to do, the purpose of the advisory committee is to advise the Board of Supervisors may or the Human Rights Commission and the public on the development of a San Francisco reparations plan. That one chronicles the legacy of American chattel slavery, post Civil War government sanctioned discrimination against African Americans and ongoing institutional discrimination that has prevented the enslaved and their descendants from fully benefiting from the growth of the US economy with an emphasis on systemic city sanctioned discrimination that has adversely impacted the lives of San Francisco. So that first one is to document and highlight the legacy of slavery to determine the scope and eligibility for a city wide reparations program. So that's the part where the question, I think, to make the distinction between bringing in a forensic accountant and someone the distinction there is not to tell us why we need the money, or how much money to give, but to actually say, where would the money come from? Right. So that is the piece that we do have to have a conversation around. Because even if we were to give every Black person two and a half million dollars, it has to come from somewhere. And so I think that was the point that someone maybe it was Professor Taylor made about, or maybe some I can't remember about not bankrupting the city at the same time and understanding where the funding and the resources, so determine the scope and eligibility because there are also questions about, you know, does someone who moves to San Francisco today Get \$2.5 million, the same as someone who has four generations of family that is here? Right, so that is the other conversation around scope and eligibility.

And so, scope and eligibility for a city wide reparations program and the means of dispersing reparations. So how do we decide whether that's dispersed because we did hear from other community members

that more than wanting to have the money that they would love to not have half a million dollars worth of student loan debt at the end of going to college. So what is some of that look like if you are a family and a household of six people, two and a half million dollars per person might work, but some folks would say they would like to just have education paid so and then three, improves education, housing, workforce development, economic opportunities, financial stability, and then four examines current and historical historic structural discrimination within the city and county of San Francisco. So it is really an advisory space in place. And so some of the immediacy around disbursement and those pieces are the things that we could focus on. For some of the groups it was more about the Heritage Center and other pieces but um, That is the those are the four buckets. And we will share that out. And we'll kind of use that as our focus as we move forward to talk about how things fit within those four buckets and potentially do well, maybe have the agenda be so that we can talk about how what we agendize fits into the four areas that we have been charged with advancing. So I will. I will stop there. Thank you, Dr. Davis. So the chairman, give the floor to you.

Eric McDonnell 3:35:35

Thank you so much. So the one other thing we need to do before we adjourn tonight is, as was discussed earlier, we need to vote on tonight, a commitment to voting for vice chairs at our August meeting. And so we've had discussion about one or two or three. And so what is your pleasure in terms of I think we're clear, we want a vice chair and perhaps even to but we just need a formal vote so that we can agendize and then plan for that vote in August.

Dr. Davis 3:36:09

And through the chair. If I could just say we had three people express interest in being vice chair. So that is Gloria Berry, Tinisch Hollins. And Anietie Ekanem.

Eric 3:36:24

Excellent. Thank you. So for tonight, again, we will vote at our August meeting. We just need to vote to elect vice chairs plural at our August meeting. So we'd entertain a motion to do so. entertain a motion?

Dr. Davis 3:36:42

I'm sorry, I just realized to someone put in the chat, but Cathy you said to read their question from public comment. But I didn't see the question other than asking about minutes. Did you have Angela A's question?

Cathy 3:36:59

No, Angela A didn't type an answer to the question in the q&a feature. Okay, thank you.

Reverend Brown 3:37:11

Mr. Chairman. Sir, I move that we would commit to and next meeting voting for vice chairs.

Unknown

I second.

Eric 3:37:24

it has been moved and seconded that we elect vice chairs at our August committee meeting. Juell Stewart, will you call roll?

Unknown Speaker 3:37:34

Yes, I will. Thank you, James Taylor. Yeah, yes. And I'm sorry, the motion is so this is the second motion of the night to vote for the Vice Chair in the August 9 meeting. state that Tony Collins is absent Eric McDonnell. Please chairs By the way, so vice chairs. I'm sorry, vice chairs. Great. Thank you for that. Um, Reverend Brown. Yes. We go Hamilton. Yes. Nicole Cunningham is absent Gloria Berry. I thank you Daniel Landry. You Yes. Tiffany Walker? Carter. Yes. Brown. And it's a acronym? Yes. Star Williams. By Chicago. Okay. Can I? Let's see, sir Irving. Yes. Yolanda Harris, aye. And that motion passes with 13 votes.

Eric 3:38:57

Excellent. Thank you very much. Thank you all. So as Dr. Davis mentioned earlier, we will carry over items seven, the selection of subcommittees eight, the identification of potential speakers and presenters for meetings and then nine, reviewing information from community meetings. So they will carry those over to our August meeting. So that brings us to item number 10. Our adjournment? Do we need a motion to adjourn? Yes. Dr. Davis?

Dr. Davis 3:39:30

Yeah, I just would offer up and see if you are willing, I would love to with the chair, follow up with members of the committee to talk about what things folks would like to see some movement on. I would like for us to not wait till next month to start to have some conversation and seeing where we can put feet to the ground and pen to paper and start to actualize some of what's been discussed here tonight.

Eric 3:39:56

Excellent. Yes, we will absolutely do that. Okay, then. Do we need a motion to adjourn? I think Yes, we do. Okay, but entertain a motion to adjourn. I think Laurie Barry's Hands up. Sorry. I missed it. Yes. It's okay. Um, I thought we were discussing the next agenda. But yeah, let's move forward.

Eric 3:40:22

So if you have agenda items and ideas, please forward them to Juell Stewart and then we can discuss in our agenda planning, how to incorporate those things where possible.

James 3:40:34

Chair McDonnell, real quickly, I left the email for a city councilwoman, the main Black woman, city council leader in Evanston. I've had some email exchange with her around this question. And again, if we're inviting like we just did, brother, Professor that came in talked about Johnson, I believe was maybe we can think about bringing her to talk to us about these forensic kinds of questions because they're further along, and maybe we can learn from what she's learned at this point. And I hope that we, you know, we probably don't have to pay anything because she's a public official.

Eric

Thank you, Professor Taylor.

James

Whoever does the inviting, please consider her please,

Eric :41:09

will do. Thank you. And again, that falls into the category of item number eight that we're going to lift up next week. So we gather all the intel on who might be ideal speakers and presentations we want to bring before the committee. So I would now entertain a motion to adjourn. I move adjournment. Is there a second? Second? Excellent. Juell Stewart, please roll call. Sure. I have to prepare because I'm on my way.

Juell Stewart 3:41:43

Okay, so the final motion of the night is to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Anietie

In the future, can this be by acclamation?

Eric 3:41:54

I think so. But I didn't want to presume anything.

Reverend Brown
It's more democratic. Let's go.

Eric
Juell Stewart, go ahead, please. Okay, James, James Taylor. Yes.

Unknown Speaker 3:42:08
I was gonna say everybody's first name. Nice. Or is absent. Eric?
Yes. Reverend Brown. Yes. Rico. Yes. Nickole is absent. GLORIA. Yes.
Daniel. Daniel. Yes. Tiffany? Yes. Gwendolyn. Anything? Yes. Star?
Yes. Sir Kayla? Yes. Let's see, sir. Yes, Yolanda. I thank you. So
the Motion passes. We are adjourned for the night. Thank you very
much, everybody.

Eric
Thank you very much. Appreciate your time and attention. Regulations.
Yes. Congratulations. Thanks, all.

DRAFT