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# 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 atop a shield. The shield is supported by two figures, one on each side. Below the shield is a banner with the 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*

### *Meeting Minutes*

November 13, 2023

5:30 p.m.

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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](http://www.sfgov.org/sfhumanrights)

**Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.**

Ancestral Acknowledgment read by Vice Chair Tinish Hollins  
Raymatush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement read by Member Gwendolyn Brown.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND COMMITTEE ROLL CALL** *(Action Item)*

**Present:** Gloria Berry, Rev. Dr. Amos Brown, Gwendolyn Brown, Laticia Erving, Omerede 'Rico' Hamilton, Tinish Hollins, Daniel Landry, Eric McDonnell

**Attending Remotely:** Tiffany Carter, Nikcole Cunningham, Anietie Ekanem, Freddy Martin, Dr. James Lance Taylor

**Absent:** Shakeyla O'Cain, Starr Williams

Quorum was not reached at the start of the meeting, it was reached at 6:03pm. The only action item on the agenda, the Adoption of the September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was moved to the 3:13:19, once quorum had been reached.

**2. 3:42 ADOPTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** *(Discussion and Possible Action Item)*

Review and anticipated adoption of video recordings, meeting minutes, and meeting notes from the African American Reparations Advisory Committee's June 5, 2023 Special Meeting, June 12, 2023, July 10, 2023, and August 14, 2023 Regular Meetings.

**This item was moved to the 3:13:19 mark.**

**Motion to Adopt the September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Gloria Berry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tiffany Carter**

**Affirmative Votes by Members in Person:** Gloria Berry, Rev. Dr. Amos Brown, Tiffany Carter, Omerede 'Rico' Hamilton, Daniel Landry, Freddy Martin, Eric McDonnell, Dr. James Lance Taylor, Starr Williams

**The minutes and notes were unanimously approved without changes.**

**Attending Remotely:** Gwendolyn Brown, Nikcole Cunningham, Anietie Ekanem, Tinish Hollins, Shakeyla O'Cain

**Absent:** Laticia Erving

### 3. 5:17 CITY DEPARTMENT REPORTS (Discussion Item)

This is time for City Departments to report back on information requests from the African American Reparations Advisory Committee. This month, representatives from the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, and Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure will provide an update on recommendations from the Final San Francisco Reparations Plan that are actionable over the next 12 to 24 months.

#### **Presentation:**

**Eric Shaw, Director**, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, City and County of San Francisco

**Thor Kaslofsky**, Director, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure, City and County of San Francisco

#### **Public Comment**

#### **Committee Comment**

#### **Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development Executive Director Eric Shaw:**

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to create Emerging Developers Program, a partnership between Bernal Knights, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, Tabernacle CDC, and Mitchellville Associates is the first all Black Principal development team.

Funding through San Francisco Foundation has funded a collaboration between the Mayor's Office of Housing Community Development, and the Urban Land Institute create the Developers of Cohort Partnerships. 25 developers of color are receiving training and relationship building to engage the city to build market based and on affordable housing. The Urban Land Institute has made a commitment raise funds and make the program permanent.

The Mayor's Office of Housing is also partnering housing directors of both Oakland and San Jose to scale the program at a regional level. There is interest in scaling the program nationally. The American Institute of Architects want to replicate the program to include a cohort of architects of color

MOH has submitted a HUD pro-housing grant, to support planning, engagement and strategy development around increasing access, removing barriers to housing opportunity, with a focus on the Western Addition. The HUD legacy investment includes Bethel AME and some housing cooperatives.

41 new homeowners for the Dream keeper down payment assistant program.

100 engaged in pre purchase counseling, with 30 actively currently looking for housing; Two of the folks who received homes held public housing vouchers at 200% of AMI, reaching all ranges of income.

Fillmore Heritage Center: On October 19, 2023 Mayor Breed announced a team was selected to manage the property. Dr. Reverend Brown hosted a public meeting/listening session at 3<sup>rd</sup> Baptist Church to discuss how to use the facility, hoping that plan is developed and published by February.

San Francisco African American Art and Cultural District is expected to complete the cultural history, housing and economic sustainability strategies report in 2024, which is the guiding document identifying programmatic priorities for the cultural district over the next five years. They received \$250,000 a year for operations through the Hotel Tax.

MOHCD is focused on improving communication between the community development partners and programming with the African American community, including: homeownership counseling, financial literacy, emergency rental assistance, other tenant mediation, tenant right to counsel. These will be administered through the Community Development side of MOHCD.

Every five years, MOH updates the HUD Consolidated Plan, which defines how the City spends community development block grant funding. They are in the process of hosting neighborhood and population specific listening sessions to inform the draft plan, to be completed by September, 2024.

**Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure Executive Director Thor Kaslofsky:** The Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure is doing similar/complementary work to MOH but on a smaller scale.

Replacement Housing: In February, 2023 OCII began working with Mayor Breed and Senator Wiener's office introducing SB 593. In 2012, when OCII was dissolved, the state terminated the City's ability to be able to replace affordable housing units demolished by the Redevelopment Agency in the 50's, 60's and 70's that the city is obligated, by law, to rebuild. The state legislation reauthorizes OCII's ability to replace approximately 6000 units of affordable housing, which will help the city meet its Housing Element goal of constructing 46,000 units of affordable housing over the next 8 years. Director **Thor Kaslofsky** thanked Mayor Breed for her leadership and recognized Maddie Scott of The Freedom West Homes, and Dr. Veronica Honeycutt of The Hunters Point Shipyard Services Advisory Committee/

The Mission Bay Development is led by an all Black development team and Black led nonprofit, constructing 150 units of affordable homeownership.

OCII is improving the Certificate of Preference (COP) Program to increase housing placements for COP holders.. That will include OCII and MOHCD acknowledging first preference for housing for COP holders in all OCII housing projects.

The department is surveying the list of COP holders to inform the design and development of the housing and what support programming is needed. They are looking to include housing for a variety of income levels, including very low income level to maximize operating rental subsidies, as a barrier to further displacement caused by replacement and redevelopment of existing housing or construction of new housing. Ensuring the housing remains affordable to the current residents.

OCII has small business contracting goals 50%, requiring nonprofit developers to hire smaller minority owned businesses to be contracted in their construction. They will continue to seek input from the small, local development community to identify community centered and equitable development ideas.

OCII has been working with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on returning COP holders into housing, focusing on the Senior Assistance Program, targeting Seniors who hold Certificates and the potential of targeting direct financial assistance or payments the predominantly Black aging and vulnerable population.

**Public Comment: Charlie Sciammas** from the Council of Community Housing Organizations recommends using the National African American Reparations Commission definition of spatial reparations as restorative and reparative geography of socio-economic and political opportunity, particularly for those displaced and Dispossessed by the legacy of institutionalized racism.

**C.C. Horton:** concerns about legislative barriers like Prop 209, Supreme Court leadership, changes in leadership using their power to erase and repeal programs. Would like to see a self funded community, instead of government owned, a modern freedman city. Purchase Hunter's Point Shipyard.

**Dennis Williams:** Black real estate development, construction, and trucking firms should be included in building within their own community. Black developers must be included as part of the multi-billion dollar construction industry.

**Virginia Marshall:** Concerned that Certificate of Preference is not enough, Black folks need access to money now. Reparations should include a cash benefit to every African American. Concerned about Seniors, young person who need education to help them with skills and our trades programs so they can access higher wage jobs that provide income to purchase homes.

**Kamji Emsley:** Concerned that the housing presentation focuses on Black San Franciscans and not “minority” applicants. Oftentimes Black San Franciscans have been left out of the discussion once the dialogue and programming shifts to “minority” stakeholders.

**Ace Washington:** Ace is concerned that Reparations will be ignored due to the upcoming election. Recommends the committee that created the outmigration report and the reparations committee unify.

**Cash Gains:** Oregon Senate Bill 619 is only a single page long. Cash is following taskforces around the country and reparations be tax exempt. Approves of the Black card idea, trust funds, retirement services, financial literacy, and the 250 years of payments tied to the area median income. Federally the B2050152 suggest studying private industry and its role in slaveholding and creating a reparations fund that will be used for payouts of cash payments.

**Black American:** Wants to make sure the reparations committee stays on task, focusing on eligibility requirements for Reparations, specific to San Francisco.

**Michael James Scott:** Is a trained architect and would like to see an Africa Town be built. Hospitals, homes, schools, bakeries, have comprehensive community plan with cohousing. Bring families together in co-housing units including, live, work, trade, and maker spaces.

### **Committee Members**

**Gloria Berry:** Asked What homeownership options are available in Midtown and is there a resident led process to explore home ownership options? How is MOHCD engaging Black Contractors?

**Eric Shaw:** Focus is making capital improvements to midtown property. There is an appropriation by the Board of Supervisors focused on making capital improvements in midtown and community engagement related to possible ownership. MOHCD is working to ensure residents stay in place while capital improvements are completed. MOHCD follows all the SBE and LBE requirements related to publicly funded projects. Hiring Black contractors must be more than holding the stop sign and a Temp job, Black people need to be trained to use heavy equipment,

become part of the skilled union trades from apprenticeship, through journeyman, to union tradesperson, so they can have livable wage jobs in San Francisco. Director Shaw also works as the Executive Director for Hope SF, all the internship and apprenticeship work is coordinated through City Build, he is working to ensure Black folks interested in the construction trades are enrolled in the program.

**Daniel Landry:** Wanted to know if there have been discussions specifically about Reparations Final Report recommendations related to housing. How is MOHCD addressing the business certificate of preference? Concerned about the impact of the advisory committee sunseting and how that impacts MOHCD accountability, would like to see a memorandum of understanding between the Mayor's Office of Housing, OCI when it comes to certificate of preference.

**Eric Shaw:** The department has reviewed recommendations. They are implementing both certificate of preference and neighborhood preference. Are working with banks to implement CRA. There is \$800 million in the pipeline on construction projects. In discussion with the Federal Reserve on using the special purpose credit to fund housing as well, ensuring the department works within the letter of the law. Focus of the department is the development of 100%, affordable housing, for the acquisition and rehabilitation and preservation of housing, administration of the Dahlia program, the Tenant Protection Program, and tenant right to counsel. They continue monitoring HUD, specifically related to King Garvey, and other housing/ focusing What's happening with Midtown around capital improvements. They have assessed capacity governance, need for financial support related to long term sustainability. Management of cooperatives is private, not public, so they select their own property managers. There are questions between local and state law related to lease ups, what entity has authority.

**Laticia Erving:** How is the department addressing the barriers built into the BMR? MOHCD should offer for home maintenance repair costs so they can keep their homes.

**Eric Shaw:** The Senior Repair program exists and could be scaled. All MOHCD housing programs are require grantees to participate in pre-purchase counseling, financial literacy and post purchase counseling. We focus on funding life safety repairs, i.e. roof replacement, accessibility, some issues with heating, heating and cooling, recognizing homeownership is wealth building through generations. Increasing AMI to 20% allowed city workers to be eligible. 60% of people in the ULI program identify as African American. There have also been conversations about forgivable loans, attempting to understand how to sustain the programs and scale the programs.

**Anietie Ekanem:** Asked the minimum income requirement for affordable housing rentals and home ownership, respectively. Data shows we are systematically excluding Black people from

affordable housing, when the median income of Black folks is \$31,000 and they are expected to pay at least half of that after tax for a unit. Few Black people even earn enough to meet minimum income requirements for affordable housing. Also elevated the ongoing issue with accurate information gathering and recordkeeping. Member Ekanem also asked about parity in funding housing counseling organizations that serve the Black community and expressed concerns that funding from ballot initiatives like Prop I, and Prop C don't actually make it into the community.

**Eric Shaw:** There is a diversity of income requirements, ranging from 50%, 80%, 100%, 120%, the average somewhere around 80% AMI, with some as low as 10% of AMI. For some populations there is a permanent shallow subsidy to offset the cost of rent. The department has updated their quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors so it shows funding streams, including tax credit, equity, shallow subsidies, bonds (if applicable), sources inclusionary, housing fees. The city funding housing counseling organizations varying in size and scope. Some help with pre-purchase, post purchase financial literacy. Many receive different funding streams from different city departments and then within MOHCD. The Contract Monitoring Division is responsible for tracking.

**Reverend Dr. Amos Brown:** Everyone has a moral obligation be a part of a movement to change laws and policies that continuously do harm to only Black people, the City policies have hurt Black people in a subtle and sinful way. San Francisco is a sanctuary city and must be serious about acknowledging and redressing the harm caused to its Black residents, specifically.

**Nikcole Cunningham:** Concerns focused parity, and the lack of parity related to awarding contracts and serving the Black community and redlined, historically Black communities in San Francisco. They wanted to know how preference could be used to prioritize and create real access to address these disparities. The city currently has a significant lists for priority housing, including people who are Ellis acted, displaced by fire, etc. There should be a focus on certificate of preference directly related to neighborhood preference and then create/explore out migration preference – but how can San Francisco prioritize someone who has been out migrated, holding a COP, to return back to the city with some type of preference?

**Eric Shaw:** Neighborhood preference is a start but the committee has identified a need for a more targeted approach to address 30 years of decline in the Black population in San Francisco. This is not specific to MOHCD, but could be a precedent for other city departments to create more accessibility to resources, improving outcomes for Black San Franciscans. San Francisco's Black community is one of the most economically diverse, ranging from families that may make \$20,000 to those who earn well over 200% AMI. Looking at owned property, how can we invest in that property so it not only retains value but grows wealth.



**Gwendolyn Brown:** All these resources currently exist within multiple city departments, but Black people don't get access. Neighborhood preference isn't working as intended, either because organizations funded to reach out to Black folks fail, or the city is not funding Black organizations to lead Dahlia enrollment efforts.

**Nikcole Cunningham:** When you increase AMI on the higher end, that's gonna serve a different population. The City needs to create AMI qualifications at zero, so children will not be removed from their families for being poor. Currently Foster families receive more cash payment for their wards than families who are in danger of losing their children to the foster system for things like lack of housing, food and basic needs.

**Eric Shaw:** The City made a \$500 million investment in housing over the past year, with equal investments services and rental subsidies. During COVID the City released \$200 million in the Rental Assistance Program.

**Gloria Berry:** The Mayor's Office could visit Washington D.C. and ask for a preference for eligible Black folks holding COP's to return back to San Francisco, similar to the local preference. The housing at Bethel AME Church is no longer filled with Black residents, like it once was, the vouchers don't provide the preference they once did. The City Attorney could enforce Section eight voucher laws and track property owners who are bad actors.

**Tinisch Hollins:** Supported member Gwendolyn Brown's remarks about accessibility to existing programs relative to the efficacy of neighborhood preference. Thanked Director Shaw for aligning department engagement and work with recommendations, with a reminder that the efficiencies they are improving are not exclusively reparations. Members will continue to advocate for centering Black people in the City's initiatives and programs and challenging policies that don't. Neighborhood preference has not increased or maintained the representation of Black people living in city funded housing in this timeframe. Demographic data supports this, the demographics of neighborhoods have changed, currently Black people are not represented in eligibility priorities. The new section eight housing vouchers may help and show effort to bring displaced Black people back to San Francisco. The work in the Western Addition could be a model for the Bayview and OMI, and other neighborhoods in San Francisco.

**Eric McDonnell:** Asked about a recent RFP focusing on acquisition and capital improvements for organizations specifically serving API residents and if this RFP could be used as a model to specifically target support to fund Black run organizations to acquire and/or improve housing serving the Black community.

**Eric Shaw:** Supervisor Chan initiated the program, the RFP was designed under the direction of Board of Supervisors, who identified what funding mechanism would be used and who would be served.

**Eric McDonnell:** Asked the most effective way for the Black community to hold Director Shaw and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development accountable to invest in Black Communities around San Francisco once this body sunsets in January 2024?

**Eric Shaw:** The consolidated plan is upcoming, showing direction of resources, revenue/funding sources. Department directors collaborating on supportive housing meet regularly, and have created a better partnership than before – including DPH, HSH, Adult Probation, HSA. A partnership between HSH and adult probation has resulted in a \$3 million loan to build reentry housing.

#### **Committee Comment to Director Kaslofsky**

**Gloria Berry:** Asked why a land trust was not considered to secure The Fillmore Heritage Center. They expressed concern that renter subsidies would not provide enough support for businesses to establish themselves; subsidies decrease from year to year, receiving no rental subsidy in year five of the program. Will there be an opportunity to renew the budget allocation for the rental subsidy in year five?

The expectation is within five years the businesses would fiscally solvent enough to eventually pay full rent within their operational budget.

**Director Dr. Sheryl Davis:** The subsidy is not necessarily focused on paying full rent in 5 years, it's about securing enough revenue to maintain the building, physical space. The building is a space where programming and different uses of the physical space are a community benefit. The subsidy will primarily covers the deferred maintenance expenses over the first few years, and by year five, the group will show they can maintain the facility and it could be given back to the operating group.

Subsidy renewal will depend on who is serving in elected office in five years, who are employed as department Directors, and how the community engages with those folks and community advocacy efforts.

**Gloria Berry:** Expressed concern that the units be designed in a way so community members who will live in them have input on how they are designed.

**Daniel Landry:** Supported Gloria Berry's comment about including future residents in the design build process. Elevated the recommendation that a comprehensive audit is completed on all housing construction. Also asked if OCII would make an official statement supporting reparations recommendations about the Fillmore Heritage Center, community benefits agreements, the Black Card,

**Thor Koslofsky:** The department is preparing a list of certificate of preference holders to invite into the design process of the Mission Bay project to help design the outdoor space, units and interior spaces, number of bedrooms, laundry, community rooms and amenities. There are challenges because more building units with more bedrooms impacts the total number of units constructed annually.

Would welcome a partnership with another department to conduct investigations because they don't have capacity to conduct benefits assessments, an economic study on the impact of eminent domain, purchasing actions of early redevelopment on households, and the loss of accumulated Real Estate Wealth. There are also other barriers faced in using confidential information.

Regarding the Certificate of Preference program, could the COP be monetized. How do we find COP holders and give them priority or perhaps an entire lottery to themselves. Could new housing quantify a specific number units for COP holders? The business certificate program expired in 2012. Director Davis, Brittini Chicuata, Sara Dennis Phillips, and Diana Ponce de Leon are searching for ways to give some type of preference.

The City can use Senate Bill 563, five year replacement housing to prioritize existing project areas where we have land opportunities to build housing, complete funding for housing in the pipeline, build replacement housing.

**Reverend Dr. Amos Brown:** Thanked Maddie Scott for her attendance at hearings. Reminded members to look at all the different facilities eradicated by redevelopment, like the MUNI Substation.

**Thor Koslofsky:** OCII does not own MUNI facilities. There is a rubric of certificate of preference for funding. The multi-decade endeavor is limited by the amount of tax increment that the city has available on an annual basis. OCII has an oversight board and commission that govern their decisions. The Commission meets twice monthly and there are citizens advisory committees in each one of their housing project areas, who meet monthly to advise the committee members.

6:03pm quorum –

**5. 2:12:36 DIRECTOR’S REPORT** (*Discussion Item*)

**Presentation:** Sheryl Evans Davis, EdD, Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**a. UPDATE ON THE OFFICE OF REPARATIONS**

**b. UPDATE ON THE FILLMORE HERITAGE CENTER**

**Public Comment**

**Committee Comment**

**Director Dr. Sheryl Davis:** The department doesn’t have the resources, capacity or infrastructure to conduct the legal investigation and policy work needed to move all the recommendations forward.

Cash payments and leveraging the certificate of preference lists: Working with OCII, there are over 12,000 people on the COP list and 98% are Black, African American folks. In consultation with the city attorney's office the City is prioritizing providing cash payments to the 1700 people over the age of 170 who are currently on the list. It would be a \$42 million payout if we were able to get in touch with everyone.

There was \$4 million allocated for two years, to fund the office of reparations. The city is looking at what would it take to build a system. The department consulted with the attorney in Evanston who built the legal structure to do the first cash payments in the country. By the January 2024 meeting, the city attorney's office may have an outline of what needs to be in place to roll out cash payments, prioritizing folks 70 and older on the certificate of preference list.

Fillmore Heritage Center: The potential to bring the historic Marcus Bookstores in to the space is exciting. There would be no cost for Marcus Bookstores to rent the space and the city will fund upgrades needed.

HBCU Satellite: The recommendations of the AARAC validated the need to expand a HBCU satellite in San Francisco, building on previous talks the Mayor’s office had with the White House initiatives on HBCUs and recommendations from the Deam Keeper Initiative. The City is working with the United Negro College Fund and a few different HBCUs to host a convening. On February 2 the department is looking at hosting a Bay Area HBCU Alumni and Divine Nine reception. The department is working with the United Negro College Fund to host 15 to 20 HBCU students for internships in STEM, agriculture, including cannabis pharmacology, government, AI, environmental sciences and education.

War on Drugs: Hopefully at the next meeting, the AARAC team is working with HRC staff on an audit, and by the next meeting should have spreadsheets with resources and information to move that work forward.

Formal apology: Supervisor Walton is crafting a resolution to be introduced at the Board of Supervisors with regards to the Office of Reparations.

Black historical cultural centers: There is currently funding under the department and a RFQ out to build culturally affirming spaces, focusing on Black historical cultural centers, including faith based centers, and space for organizations creating a community space based on gun violence intervention models with input from community members, the DHS office. With mothers whose children were killed taking a leadership role on that work. Working with DPH on culturally responsive substance abuse services.

Prop 209: Increased education on civic engagement, voting and participation in efforts to repeal Prop 209.

Moving forward, we are looking at how the private sector can support with help get additional dollars.

### **Public Comment**

**Dennis Williams:** The Real estate development sector, one of the highest paying opportunities in San Francisco needs Black developers, Black contractors and Black truckers. Proposed sitting down with Reverend Dr. Brown to discuss developing The Fillmore Center. The mini Park and McDonald's should have been included. Sunnydale, Portrero Hill, Fillmore represent billions of dollars moving into the hand of Chinese developers, out of state developers, white developers, and none the Black community's hands.

**CC Horton:** Identified limitations of public private entities. San Francisco is a sanctuary city that provides benefits to people who are not even citizens. There are 2 million Black people living in California and collectively Black folks need a place to invest in ourselves and hold the city and state responsible.

**Angela A:** Black people live throughout San Francisco, not just the Bayview or Fillmore. Social Security starts at 65 years of age, that is the accepted age of being a Senior.

**Maddie Scott:** Mothers would definitely like to be involved in violence prevention work.

**Kamji Ensley:** Supported focusing on Seniors who qualify for reparations, meet eligibility requirements, and hold COP's but live with family outside San Francisco.

**Sticks Broadnax:** Community needs to stick together to hold local, state and federal government responsible to their commitments because throughout history, they have never done as promised.

**Cheryl Thornton:** Hope SF sites are home to many people who are products of the San Francisco Unified School District, with high dropout rates for Black students. They are not preparing Black students for higher paying jobs in tech, only lower paying jobs that don't meet AMI requirements. How are the Hope SF sites working to help residents get their GED, certificates from City College.

**Galaxy V Phone:** Asked about eligibility.

**Unidentified:** Supported the \$5 million direct cash payment and prioritizing seniors.

### **Committee Comment**

**Gloria Berry:** Asked if the Gun Violence Intervention model was based on the office of neighborhood safety in Richmond, California. Wanted to know how the decision was made to prioritize seniors in the work.

**Dr. Sheryl Davis:** Yes, the department has been working with Devone Boggan with Advance Peace, David Muhammad with the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform and others in community to build out a program.

Dr. Davis worked with the city attorney's office and OCI, the Controller's office to think about how to get the proper city departments to work collaboratively to create the structure to identify seniors who hold COP's and who aren't on that list but meet eligibility requirements to legally distribute cash reparations. With limited staff resources, Dr. Davis could either focus on moving the Office of Reparations forward or actual reparations identified in the report forward.

**Laticia Erving:** Asked if the department was focusing on the bulleted list on the slide as well as other reparations identified in the report. What city resources can be allocated specific to declaring a public health crisis. Substance abuse, violence all relate to Mental Health services, which isn't specifically identified on the short term priority list, which should include culturally responsive services. Also equally important is environmental cleanup.

**Dr. Sheryl Davis:** The list identifies short term efforts that can be advanced now. Between now and January the committee and department can review the list for priorities.

In the past the Department of Public Health has identified gun violence as a public health crisis, it could be a statement. Or something like a declared public health emergency, triggering the release of other resources. Specific to the mental health piece, the department is in conversations with and has

received funding from DPH and there is currently an RFQ released supporting culturally affirming practices. The department is working with national Black led mental health services. The department is working with Tyrone Jew from the Department of Environment, and hosted a meeting with a Department of Energy representative. The HBCU partners are also interested in elevating and talking about environmental sciences, clean up, research and development.

**Reverend Dr. Brown:** Thanked Dr. Davis for her work and supported the initiative to secure an HBCU satellite campus. Focus on Health because determinants for health show Black folks suffer more chronic illness for a wide variety of reasons that could be remedied now.

**Daniel Landry:** Asked about the plan to ensure CBA is a part of the partnership agreement for The Fillmore Heritage Center because as a member of NCLF, Member Hamilton and Member Landry were involved in developing the original community benefits agreement adopted in 2018. Is the garage part of the agreement? Is the Black Card being explored.

**Dr. Sheryl Davis:** The community benefit agreement for the original space was through the Department of Real Estate, in partnership with MOHCD, so she will need to circle back with that department. The garage in The Fillmore Heritage Center is separate. The Black Card is something that will require work beyond the scope of the department.

**Rico Hamilton:** How can members stay involved in the reparations work now that the committee is sunsetting.

**Dr. Sheryl Davis:** Perhaps creating different informal advisory committees, hosting quarterly updates in community spaces, reporting back to existing community collectives. I

**Reverend Dr. Brown:** Suggested quarterly Harambe gatherings.

**2. 3:13:19 ADOPTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** (*Discussion and Possible Action Item*)

Review and anticipated adoption of video recordings, meeting minutes, and meeting notes from the African American Reparations Advisory Committee's June 5, 2023 Special Meeting, June 12, 2023, July 10, 2023, and August 14, 2023 Regular Meetings.

**Motion to Adopt the September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Gloria Berry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reverend Dr. Brown.**

**Affirmative Votes by Members in Person: Present:** Gloria Berry, Rev. Dr. Amos Brown, Gwendolyn Brown, Laticia Erving, Omerede 'Rico' Hamilton, Tinish Hollins, Daniel Landry, Eric McDonnell

**The minutes and notes were unanimously approved without changes.**

**Attending Remotely:** Tiffany Carter, Nikcole Cunningham, Anietie Ekanem, Freddy Martin, Dr. James Lance Taylor

**Absent:** Shakeyla O'Cain, Starr Williams

**4. 3:15:03 CHAIR REPORT** (*Discussion Item*)

**Presentation: Eric McDonnell**, Chair, African American Reparations Advisory Committee, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

**Tinish Hollins**, Vice Chair, African American Reparations Advisory Committee, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

The Chair and Vice Chair will report back on their work representing the African American Reparations Advisory Committee since the September 11, 2023 meeting.

**a. FOLLOW UP ON THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRESENTATION TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**b. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

**Public Comment**

**Committee Comment**

**Chair McDonnell:** There have been few conversations with individual Board of Supervisors to ensure their staff review the report, identify recommendations aligning with work their office is committed to doing. The chair will ask members to reach out to members of the Board of Supervisors who haven't been contacted.

Supervisor Walton is working on a resolution for an apology, the timing will be an introduction in January with adoption in February.

Members need to continue advocacy efforts. There are discussions identifying intersections between local and statewide advocacy. At the state level, the California Black Freedom Fund, San Francisco Foundation, and California Community Foundation are positioned to support this work. San Francisco needs to align with other jurisdictions across the state who are pursuing reparations. In January he is scheduled present to the San Francisco League of Women Voters.

**Tinish Hollins:** The California Black Freedom Fund and the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy at the Japanese American National Museum, will host an event "Shared Path, Ways To Heal, Repair And Liberate" on Tuesday, December 5 in Los Angeles. There will be a gallery



exploration about the intersection of Japanese reparations, within the work that's currently happening on Black/African American Reparations at state level. There was a presentation to the Chinese Progressive Association, building allyship.

**Eric McDonnell:** There are discussions about a Reparations stakeholder authority to create an accountability body and act as an organizations to raise resources to invest funds supporting ongoing work.

### **Public Comment**

**John Avalos:** The work this body has completed is an enormous contribution to this country, to the city and needs to continue. The need to rebuild public institutions to focus on repairing the Black community and ensure existing institutions that deny access to Black people must be identified and improve their services. He supports the apology and acknowledgement of harm, along with action to address those harms. He would like to be an ally in establishing a body to continue the work and hold government accountable, the Council of Community Housing Organizations wants to be an ally in that process.

**CC Horton:** Reminded everyone that the government has been the primary perpetrator of harm to Black people in the United States. Race neutrality is the law in California and the barriers of Prop 209 must be addressed. This is an new, modern day Jim Crow era, and the power of 2 million Black Californian's purchasing power and political power must be harnessed.

**Dennis Williams:** They are the founder of the Fillmore Community Development Corporation. More apprenticeship programs are needed serving the Black community.

**Maddie Scott:** Thanked the committee.

### **6. 3:28:51 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (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. Speakers shall address their remarks to the Committee as a whole and not to individual Committee Members or Department personnel.

**Maddie Scott:** Supports the work of the committee, especially focused on the HBCU piece, the need to focus on education and the housing, and mental health priorities. Gun violence is the number one cause the leading cause of death of children in this country and is still the leading cause of death of young African American men. Also supports moving the age of seniors to 55 years old.

**Ace Washington:** Thanked the committee for their work. Urged everyone to continue pushing forward, so the work doesn't get stalled out following elections and changes in elected officials, department staff.

**Dennis Williams:** Changes need to be made to AMI, or Black folks won't make the minimum requirements. So far priority preferences haven't been successful. New publicly funded construction should require space for black owned businesses. Black owned property management first should run housing that primarily serves Black residents. Black people are suffering from cancer and other chronic illnesses due to dirty soil. Lawsuit settlements are being renegotiated for less and that cannot continue to happen.

**Unidentified:** Wanted to know how to be eligible for Reparations.

**CC Horton:** There are a few cases the committee should look at, US Supreme Court case. Jay Crosson versus City of Richmond. Jay Kosta versus City of Richmond, it was one of the last cases that Thurgood Marshall ruled on. San Francisco is a Sanctuary City and Black people face more disparities than any other population.

**Yasmine:** Concerned about eligibility requirements.

**Angela A:** Confirmed by DNA, Angela A is a descendant of chattel slavery from both my parents side. Has concerns that she would not be eligible for local reparations under the current eligibility requirements.

**Sticks Brodnax.** Thanked the body for their work and concerned that things will not move forward.

**Unidentified:** Supports reparations and is worried about the implementation.

**3:50:00:** Announced that public comment will no longer be held remotely, in alignment with legislation passed at the Board of Supervisors and affirmed by the Mayor's Office.

## **7. 3:51:09 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn: Daniel Landry, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Gloria Berry

Closed the meeting in memory of Hattie McDaniel, first Black woman to win an Oscar.

Transcription of the meeting minutes are available upon request to the Committee Secretary, reparations@sfgov.org.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.