



**Reparations Committee**  
**Thursday, September 2, 2021**  
**Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, G300**  
**9:00 AM**

Please note there will be a film crew on site. They are filming a documentary that features the City of Evanston Reparations journey.

The Reparations meeting is an in-person meeting, the recording of the meeting will be posted within 48 hours of the conclusion of the meeting.

Reparations Committee Webpage: <https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/reparations-committee>

**AGENDA**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. [Approval of the August 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#) 3 - 5

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- A. **Reparations Financial Donation Report** 6 - 7

Staff recommends the Reparations Committee accepts and place on file September 2021 Donation Report.

**For Action**

Accept and Place on File

[Reparations Financial Donation Report - Attachment - Pdf](#)

**B. Review of the First Restorative Housing Informational Session** 8 - 10

Staff recommends the Reparations Committee accepts and place on file the review its first Informational Session.

**For Action**

To Accept and Place on File

[Review of the First Restorative Housing Informational Session - Attachment - Pdf](#)

**C. Administrative Cost to Support Reparations Programs** 11

Staff requests the Committee to consider funding sources for the administrative costs that may occur to support programs.

**For Discussion**

[Administrative Cost to Support Reparations Programs - Attachment - Pdf](#)

**D. Economic Development Initiatives and Community Participation** 12 - 13

As the Committee begins to look at economic development initiatives that address perpetuated racial disparities through the City's use of regulatory or policy-oriented tools, it is being recommended that the Committee create a community engagement plan.

**For Discussion**

[Economic Development Initiatives and Community Participation - Pdf](#)

**5. COMMUNICATION**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Important Dates to Know**

**Next Reparations Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 7 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

**Housing Program Informational Sessions**

Tuesday, September 7 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 15 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Thursday, September 23 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Due to limited space, please register online at [Cityofevanston.org/Reparations](http://Cityofevanston.org/Reparations) or call 847-448-4311.

**Restorative Housing Application Open and Close Dates**

Tuesday, September 21 - Friday, November 5, 2021

Reparations Committee  
Thursday, August 5, 2021  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, G300 9:00 AM

**Minutes**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. Members present were Chair and Councilmember Peter Braithwaite, Councilmember Bobby Burns, Bonnie Lockhart, Claire McFarland Barber, Robin Rue Simmons, and Carlis Sutton. Councilmember Devon Reid was absent. Staff members, Kim Richardson, Nicholas Cummings, and Tasheik Kerr were also present.

**A. Introduction of Members**

The Committee members shared their background and reasons for joining the Committee. Councilmember Peter Braithwaite acknowledged the support provided to the reparations process by Dino Robinson of Shorefront Legacy Center and Kamm Howard, National Co-Chair of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA).

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sebastian Nalls noted \$25,000 is not enough of a down payment on an entry level home in Evanston. Nalls requested data behind those who indicated that they do not want cash payment. Nalls proposed the Committee survey black residents. Nalls also inquired whether the Restorative Housing Program payments would be taxable.

Bennett Johnson shared that it's important to have a housing program, however, reparations are about repair and should not be limited to housing. Johnson reviewed the Freedman Plan which calls for funds dedicated to education, healthcare, venter capital, and truth and reconciliation. Johnson also noted funds need to be independent from the electoral process.

Renee Pitter proposed examining health outcome as it relates to reparations. Renee noted health and wellness are tied to wealth creation and generational financial stability.

Tina Paden mentioned that the meeting should be hybrid. Tina shared that she is an advocate for cash payment and would like answers to how much is in the Reparations Fund and where the funds are being held. Tina also noted the public

should know who is selecting the applicants and that senior citizens should be prioritized.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Overview of the Open Meetings Act**

Corporation Counsel, Nicholas Cummings provided an overview of the open meetings Act. For a meeting to be official, a quorum of four members needs to be established. Cummings also noted that a group or gathering of three members will constitute a meeting. This includes communication amongst members. Those communications are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

#### **B. Review of the Restorative Housing Program Guidelines**

Deputy City Manager, Kimberly Richardson, reviewed the Restorative Housing Program Guidelines. Claire McFarland Barber inquired about the process for applicants that meet the qualifications but funds have been spent. Richardson responded that those applications would remain in the queue. If more funding is made available, they would be in line for funding. Carlis Sutton noted he is concerned that many seniors would not be interested in home purchase nor mortgage assistance. Carlis Sutton also shared he was concerned that payment would only be made to those contractors that are registered with the City. Alderman Simmons noted that the Committee would work on providing residents with a directory of contractors and persons who are involved in real estate transactions.

#### **C. Implementation Calendar of the Restorative Housing Program Deputy City Manager,**

Kimberly Richardson, noted staff has been working on the implementation of the program to ensure the process is fair and transparent. Richardson also mentioned that several partnerships are being developed to help with the execution of the application process.

As it pertains to the application, Richardson shared the application would be online to ensure the security of applicants' documents. Staff is also planning to conduct several workshops to educate residents on the process and the application. The application would be made available Tuesday, September 21. Applicants that qualify as an Ancestor would receive the first review. Staff will provide the Committee with a checklist indicating applicants met the qualifications.

Former Councilmember Robin Rue Simmons suggested the Committee develop a list of community organizations for Staff to outreach. Claire McFarland Barber suggested utilizing volunteers to help elders fill out the online application.

Councilmember Peter Braithwaite recommended there be a 45-day window for the application. Carlis Sutton inquired about how staff plans to conduct outreach efforts and whether applicants would receive a confirmation that their application was submitted.

#### D. Committee Goal Setting Exercise

Councilmember Braithwaite opened the floor for Committee feedback. Bonnie Lockhart inquired about the process to keep residents informed about the informational meetings. Carlis Sutton noted the need to create a sense of trust with the community. Carlis suggested members of the Committee make themselves available to speak to groups meeting on reparations.

### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

#### A. Reparations Financial Donation Report

Corporation Counsel, Nicholas Cummings, summarized state law (35 ILCS 120/11), which prohibits the City from sharing reasonable statistics concerning the operation of the 3% tax or share allocations received from the Cannabis Tax due to there being fewer than 5 adult-use cannabis dispensaries in Evanston.

Tasheik noted the City has received \$25,309.29 in donations to the Reparations Fund (Fund 177).

Councilmember Peter Braithwaite mentioned that the Stakeholders Authority, which is a group of residents from black community organizations, will oversee the management of the Evanston Reparations Community Funds that are collected by the Evanston Foundation.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Braithwaite motioned the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.



## Memorandum

To: Members of the Reparations Committee  
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager  
CC: Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager  
Subject: Reparations Financial Donation Report  
  
Date: September 2, 2021

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Recommended Action:

Staff recommends the Reparations Committee accepts and place on file the September 2021 Donation Report.

Committee Action:

For Action: Accept and Place on File

Summary:

As of September 1, 2021, the City has received \$26,180.29 in donations to the Reparations Fund. This represents an increase of \$871 from August.

As to the 3% Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax on adult/recreational cannabis sales within the City, the Committee should note that per the state statute (35 ILCS 120/11), the City cannot share reasonable statistics concerning the operation of the 3% tax or share allocations received from this tax since there are fewer than 5 adult-use cannabis dispensaries in Evanston. Doing so would be a breach of confidentiality.

Attachments:

[September Donations Report](#)

9/1/21, 3:02 PM

G/L Account: 177.15.1595.56011 (REPARATIONS FUND.CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE.REPARATIONS FUND.DONATIONS )

Annual Totals  ▾

Reclass Journal Type  ▾

Prior Year  ▾

Classification **Other Revenue**

Fiscal Year **2021**

Amended Budget <b>\$0.00</b>	Revenues <b>\$26,180.29</b>	YTD Balance <b>-\$26,180.29</b>	Percent Received <b>---</b>
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Month	Budget	Amendments	Revenues	Current YTD Balance	Percent Received
January	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,699.00	-\$1,699.00	---
February	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$325.00	-\$2,024.00	---
March	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,788.01	-\$8,812.01	---
April	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,912.28	-\$23,724.29	---
May	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	-\$24,424.29	---
June	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$585.00	-\$25,009.29	---
July	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	-\$25,309.29	---
August	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$871.00	-\$26,180.29	---
September	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$26,180.29	---
October	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$26,180.29	---
November	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$26,180.29	---
December	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$26,180.29	---
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,180.29	-\$26,180.29	---
Unposted Transactions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$26,180.29)	---
Grand Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,180.29	(\$26,180.29)	---



## Memorandum

To: Members of the Reparations Committee  
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager  
Subject: Review of the First Restorative Housing Informational Session  
Date: September 2, 2021

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Recommended Action:

Staff recommends the Reparations Committee accepts and place on file the review its first Informational Session

Committee Action:

For Action: Accept and Place on File

Summary:

On August 30, 2021, the Reparations Committee hosted its first Local Reparations: Restorative Housing Program Informational Session at Friendship Baptist Church of Evanston. 50 individuals registered to attend this first of five informational sessions.

As to date, 232 individuals have registered to attend an informational session. In addition to presentations made by staff and members of the Committee, attendees were provided with informational materials including the Restorative Housing Program Guide, Restorative Housing Program application, presentation PowerPoint, and FAQs on both the reparations process and the Restorative Housing Program.

Recognizing the time constraints in allowing for questions and answers, staff provided the attendees with notecards to write down additional questions. Staff will expand the existing FAQ section on the reparations webpage to include some of those questions and responses from staff. Below are the questions that were submitted to staff.

- How many people within a family may receive reparations funding?
- Would receipts have to use their awarded \$25,000 for permit fees, architecture drawings, etc?
- Can funds be spent on basements and garages?
- What resources can people use to prove eligibility?
- Has the City had discussions about not increasing property taxes for home improvements?



- What other initiatives are on the horizon especially for young people?
- What if a person is not ready to expend their funds? Would you provide that person with more time or would you give another person who is ready the funds?
- Could you explain the difference between Local Reparations and Reparations for Slavery?
- How will the current lawsuit filed against the City affect the distribution of funds?
- What is another method of completing an application other than online?
- When will the meeting become virtual?
- What documentation will be acceptable if I was not a homeowner?
- After the initial distribution, what categories of recipients will be prioritized?
- When will the actual amount of the funds collected be made known?
- Are there any indications that this fund will be designated to alleviate systematic racist practices still existing in our community?
- Will there be any reconstruction of any facility that gentrification has eliminated? I.e. public schools, training facilities for technical employment, facilities for the elderly(housing, daycare)?
- Will there be a designation or acknowledgment of homes built by blacks for their contributions to our community?



# EVANSTON LOCAL REPARATIONS INITIATIVE

## Restorative Housing Program

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The City of Evanston has approved the first \$400,000 of \$10 million commitment towards the Local Restorative Housing Program. Residents are encouraged to attend one of five Restorative Housing Program informational sessions to learn about the program and application process. Registration required.

### Restorative Housing Program Informational Sessions

#### Friendship Baptist Church of Evanston

Monday, August 30  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

#### Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Tuesday, September 7  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

#### Fleetwood-Jourdain Center

Wednesday, September 15  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

#### Virtual

Tuesday, September 21  
Noon to 1:30 p.m.

#### Levy Senior Center

Thursday, September 23  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



City of  
**Evanston™**

Due to social distancing, seating capacity registration is required. Register at [cityofevanston.org/restorativehousing](http://cityofevanston.org/restorativehousing). Masks are required at in-person meetings.



## Memorandum

To: Members of the Reparations Committee  
From: Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager  
Subject: Administrative Cost to Support Reparations Programs  
Date: September 2, 2021

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Recommended Action:

Staff requests the Committee to consider a budget and funding sources for administrative cost that may occur to support program development and implementation.

Committee Action:

For Discussion

Summary:

From time to time there will be administrative costs to support program initiatives and community participation. Staff is looking for direction from the Committee on how to budget and/or work with the Committee to identify outside sources to fund certain administrative cost.

Reparations fund is supported by the cannabis sales tax and private donations.

Examples:

1. Expenses from a third party vendor
2. Stipends to community members to aid in the application process.
3. Stipend for Engagement Strategies

Community Engagement Policy/Equity questions to consider:

- Can paying for engagement help us reach voices that are traditionally marginalized?
- Who will be paid and how?
- How much will be given?
- Where is the money coming from (reparations fund, a grant, etc.)?
- How do we ensure funds are distributed in an equitable manner?
- What are other ways we can communicate to residents that we want to hear from them and their participation is valued?



## Memorandum

To: Members of the Reparations Committee  
From: Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager  
Subject: Economic Development Initiatives and Community Participation  
Date: September 2, 2021

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Recommended Action:

As the Committee begins to look at economic development initiatives that address perpetuated racial disparities through the use of the City's regulatory or policy-oriented tools, it is being recommended that the Committee create a community engagement plan.

Committee Action:

For Discussion

Summary:

With the adoption of Resolution 126-R-19, which commits the first ten million dollars (\$10,000,000.00) of the City's Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax (3% on gross sales of cannabis) to fund local reparations for housing and economic development programs for Black Evanstonians, the Committee developed and now implementing the first housing initiative. As the first housing program begins to accept applications, the Committee pivots its focus towards the creation of the first local reparations economic development initiative.

It has been acknowledged that the government has historically struggled to engage with communities of color and other marginalized communities, which has effectively silenced many voices in our community. The basis of public participation is that those impacted by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.

To better prepare for engaging the community plan, staff recommends the committee consider the following:

- What is the new Reparations Initiative looking to accomplish?
- What pieces of the Initiative can the public influence?
- How will the Committee set realistic expectations for how feedback will be gathered and used while not overpromising?
- What parts of the Initiative can the public participate in?

- Where, when, and how can the public give input?
- What is the Committee timeline and budget?

Reference: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	EXAMPLES
INFORM	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, and/or solutions.	We will keep you informed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheets</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Social media posts</li> <li>• Open houses</li> <li>• Print media</li> </ul>
CONSULT	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decision.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public forums</li> <li>• Seeking comments</li> <li>• Focus groups</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Public meetings</li> </ul>
INVOLVE	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	We will work with you to ensure your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how the public input influenced the decision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Deliberate polling</li> <li>• Discussion and debate</li> <li>• In-person contact and meetings</li> </ul>
COLLABORATE	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen advisory committees</li> <li>• Consensus-building</li> <li>• Participatory decision-making</li> </ul>
EMPOWER	Empowering the community to develop solutions and implement them.	We will implement what you decide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen juries</li> <li>• Ballots</li> <li>• Referendums</li> <li>• Delegated decisions</li> </ul>

IAP2 spectrum of participation.png