



Reparations Committee
Saturday, October 22, 2022 @ 11:00 AM
Second Baptist Church, 1717 Benson Ave

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:

Bobby Burns, Councilmember, Robin Rue Simmons, Committee Member, Bonnie Lockhart, Committee Member, and Kristian Harris, Councilmember

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Councilmember, Devon Reid, Committee Member, Claire McFarland Barber, Committee Member, Carlis Sutton

STAFF PRESENT:

Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. WELCOME

A. *Alpha Phi Alpha*

Michael Blaker, of Alpha Phi Alpha of the Mu chapter at Northwestern University, announced the chapter is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

B. *Second Baptist Church*

Dr. Michael Nabors, Pastor of Second Baptist Church, welcomed the attendees. Dr. Nabors highlighted the importance of the Black Church and the Black Community in aiding black Northwestern students.

C. *City of Evanston*

Mayor Biss noted that the City of Evanston is proud of its step to provide reparations and is aware that more work needs to be done. Mayor Biss also acknowledged that the Reparations work would require the collaboration of various organizations. The conversations around reparations only helps the City work to get it right, which might include teaching and pushing each other.

3. OVERVIEW OF TOWN HALL MEETING

Committee Member Simmons provided an overview of the City of Evanston Reparations process. She also highlighted the racial gaps in Evanston and announced the documentary "The Big Payback."

4. **INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS**

The Reparations Town Hall Panelists included Bobby Burns, Evanston Fifth Ward Councilmember, Dino Robinson, Founder and President of Shore Front Legacy, and Asyao Horibe, President of the Buddhist Council of the Midwest.

The Panelists responded to the following questions.

- 1) Can every African American (local and national) expect to be a beneficiary of Evanston's reparations?
- 2) Is it possible for other locations, towns, and cities to also develop their own reparations initiatives?
- 3) If a few Black people from Evanston are against reparations in the town, how can it be effective?
- 4) Why should the city support reparations if there is division among those who are potential recipients?
- 5) Is the Evanston Reparations effort capable of beginning a wave of similar initiatives around the nation?
- 6) Do local efforts towards establishing reparations interfere with national and international movements to achieve reparations for those who come out of the African Diaspora?
- 7) With such animus aimed at reparations from current (and probably future) elected officials, what is your opinion about the future of reparations?
- 8) Is it possible to be anti-reparations and pro-Black?
- 9) How will reparations help Blacks in Evanston achieve equity and success?
- 10) Does reparations address the ongoing issue of systemic and growing personal racism in our nation?

5. **CLOSING REMARKS**

Dr. Michael Nabors and Lisa Laude of First Repair offered closing remarks.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cherylette Hilton - If there are funds, why is the process so lengthy?

Jill Graham - Promising start. Keep up the good work. Please know there are lots of Evanstonians supporting you, even though you may hear more from those who seem to blame you because the pace of achieving restorative justice is so slow.

Robyne Howard - I am so very much in support of and proud to be in a community that enacted reparations --- finally!

Hannah Lenzo - I live in the MOSAIC housing cooperative in Evanston and our coop is interested in becoming more active in reparations efforts. I'm excited to learn more at the 10/22 meeting!

Vanessa Johnson-McCoy -Thanks for your service and efforts to advance reparations and repair!

Geneve Louise Wade - Is there a syllabus as to what, when and status of this initiative??? Are there to be more disbursement of reparations ?

Angelina Nordstrom - I would like to learn more about what the Reparations Committee plans to do to address black residents who do not have direct ancestors who were pushed out of Evanston, but still experience housing insecurity.

Jason Lauren - Please be aware of the Resolution on Reparations adopted by the Tikkun Olam Commission for consideration by the Board of Governors of Reconstructing Judaism. I believe it was adopted by the Board. It is very supportive of Reparations. If you haven't already, you might want to invite persons associated with that action.

Maurice Weaver - Expand program to include housing incentives for all African American residents of Evanston.

Sue Carlson - Looking forward to continuing the progress already underway! Cheers!!

Yvonne Smith - I believe this initiative is needed and I am hopeful that the committee will find ways to increase funding so that it is not necessary to depend primarily on tax revenue from marijuana sales in Evanston.

Demetrice Griffin - I would love to volunteer.

Bruce Allen King - Looking forward to it.Long awaited!

Kara Juncken - I am an indigenous rights lawyer from Australia that has been following events in Evanston with interest, I hope you can reach a timely and fair outcome for the applicants.

Jane Wickenkamp -Let's keep up the good work and get \$ to our older residents while they are still alive. Thank you.

Luke Adams - We do great work by helping to lead the country in this vital part of healing from generations worth of harm.

Vanessa Johnson-McCoy -Thanks for your work! Much appreciated!

Bevin Drew - I am a resident of Evanston who is in dire need of assistance for home improvement for my auntie has owned and has direct lineage to my grandmother who passed but we are her kin !!!

Phil Bashook - If continue to base payments on property ownership definitely should add

percentage of real estate transfer tax to funds for reparations. Also consider adding all those who lived in Evanston irrespective of whether owned property during time period defined for residence proof of ownership. Evidence for proof of residence families or children could be in school records for D65 or D202.

Kay Muller - Future reparations payments would be most impactful if they created new opportunities. Please consider how funds might be allocated to a new school and community center needed to provide the 5th ward the resources long denied. This should include a swimming pool, a health center and other enhancements to make it a magnet for our youth who have nothing to do but hang out in the streets. We can't change the past so let's concentrate on the future.

Erika Carter -When are more funds being disbursed?

Gretchen Brewster-So glad that the service of VIRTUAL meetings is being offered.

Alex Piper -Thank you all for all of your amazing work and for having these town hall updates and meetings. I couldnt be more proud of being a resident of Evanston

Arthur Ward - I appreciate all of your efforts. But I'm not sure if this is reparations. I am not sure if I am comfortable with so many Black immigrants being involved with this very domestic issue that is only between the government and the descendants of American slavery.

Eleanor Swope- Committee person may I ask if all who qualified will eventually receive reparations? thank you

Del C - Why aren't the reparations lineage based?

Donald Smither- This is not a reparations program that's being given go the Freedmen of Evanston. Loans have to be paid back & they are based on having a qualified credit score. This is the problem that we have with NAARC, NCOBRA & IBW having a say in our lineage based claim. Every subcommittee is full of these people with not enough Freedmen on them to hit back at the obstruction that's currently going on. The three groups I mentioned have been undermining Freedmen politically since they made a pack with democrats. Our ancestors deserve better & Queen Mother Audley Moore even said that reparations should be paid to Freedmen instead of those who were affected by the harms of slavery. You all should be ashamed of this program because instead of it repairing those affected if the beneficiaries miss a payment then they'll lose their home. This program needs to be thrown in the trash & the organizations responsible for it need to stop passing this off as reparations

J.P. - So far, the City of Evanston, Illinois reparations is a joke. You can only qualify for reparations if you prove that you were discriminated against through 1969. Question. How many racist incidents have we had in Evanston this year alone? How many meetings have the committee meeting members had, and we still have nothing? So if you were in Evanston after 1969, your family, and your race was not subjected to racism and/or redlining? It's still being done today. This is a well educated City. You can do better than this.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Harris to adjourn the Town Hall. The Town Hall adjourned at 12:20 p.m.