

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
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RESOLUTION #2022-047

March 14, 2022

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ENACTMENT OF ASSEMBLY BILL A938/S386, THE "NEW JERSEY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE ACT"

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill A938 and Senate Bill S386 (these companion bills are collectively referred to as the "New Jersey Reparations Task Force Act") will authorize research and development of reparatory proposals and recommendations to address the generational harms caused by New Jersey's role in America's institution of slavery and its legacy of systemic racial discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of South Orange Village (the "Village") is a multicultural and diverse town; and,

WHEREAS, the system of slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral, shameful, and inhumane deprivation of the life, liberty, humanity, citizenship, and cultural heritage of Africans and also denied them, among other things, the fruits of their own labor upon which this country, and its economy, was built; and,

WHEREAS, New Jersey's deep roots in American slavery and its vestiges have endured to the present day. A direct line can be traced from New Jersey's role in American slavery to its system today of voter suppression, racial wealth disparities, mass incarceration, racial segregation, and crumbling infrastructure in Black communities in New Jersey, such as the current elevated lead levels in water and homes; and,

WHEREAS, the full effects of the institution and legacy of slavery on Black people and communities in New Jersey have not been sufficiently examined, nor have there been remedies for past injustice and present harm, or sufficient efforts at transformation; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State and of the people of New Jersey for the government to initiate and foster methods of improving knowledge and understanding in general and to adopt and initiate means to foster communication and dialogue for the purpose of achieving truth and transformation as it concerns the issue of slavery and reparation; and



WHEREAS, in line with the advocacy of the "Say the Word: Reparations" campaign, we 1) call on the Senate President and the Speaker of the Assembly to hold committee hearings on the proposed bill; 2) call on the Legislature to pass the New Jersey Reparations Task Force Act as soon as possible thereafter; and 3) call on the Governor to sign the bill into law upon adoption by the Legislature.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Township of South Orange Village fully endorses the enactment of the New Jersey Reparations Task Force Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the New Jersey Assembly and the New Jersey Senate, including the Village's local representatives of those bodies.

Trustee Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Brown			X			
Coallier						X
Haskins						X
Hartshorn Hilton			X			
Jones	X		X			
Zuckerman		X	X			

CERTIFICATION

I, Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk of the Township of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2022.


Ojetti E. Davis
Village Clerk