

**Asbury Park
NJ****Resolution
2023-236**Adopted
May 10, 2023 6:00 PM**Resolution Endorsing The Enactment Of Proposed Legislation (A938/S386) To Create The "New Jersey Reparations Task Force"**

Information

Department: City Clerk
Category: General Resolution

Sponsors:

Attachments

[Printout](#)

Body

WHEREAS, the City of Asbury Park (the "City") is a multicultural and diverse city and home of many Black residents who make up a large part of the City's population; and

WHEREAS, from 1619 to 1865, approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants, under a practice that was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned, were enslaved in the United States and the colonies that became the United States; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming body of scholarship, including historical, legal, political, economic, sociological, cultural and community evidentiary documentation, along with the modern day lived experiences of the descendants of enslaved Africans, form the basis for inquiry into the ongoing effects of the institution of slavery and its legacy of persistent systemic structures of discrimination on living Black people and communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, slavery took root very deeply in New Jersey, as with its southern neighbors, slavery played a key role in New Jersey's economic development. New Jersey was known as "the slave state of the North."; and

WHEREAS, in 1844, New Jersey also restricted access to the ballot box by denying the vote to people with criminal convictions the same year it restricted voting to white men, the first Northern state to do so; and

WHEREAS, following the abolition of slavery, actors at the federal, state and local levels continued to perpetuate, condone and profit from practices that continued to brutalize and systemically disadvantage Black people, including through redlining, racially restrictive covenants, predatory lending and other discriminatory housing policies, unequal education and discrimination in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, for several decades, public and private facilities and establishments, including restaurants, taverns, and pools were segregated by race. It was not until the state legislature passed the Freeman Bill in 1949 that New Jersey law guaranteed equal access to schools, restaurants, stores, public transportation, theaters, and beaches. Discrimination in housing, however, remained legal until 1967; and

WHEREAS, to address these systemic challenges in New Jersey, the "New Jersey Reparations Task Force" will research, write, and publish a report that will examine the institution of slavery in New Jersey as well as the extent to which the State of New Jersey and the federal government prevented, opposed or restricted efforts of Black people to thrive upon the ending of slavery and make recommendations for what remedies should be awarded in New Jersey and outline policy recommendations that seek to repair the harm that has resulted from America's original sin in the Garden State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Asbury Park that this body fully endorses the enactment of A938/S386 by the New Jersey State Legislature, which would create the "New Jersey Reparations Task Force."

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

Meeting History

May 10, 2023 6:00 PM

Municipal Council

Regular Meeting

RESULT:

ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Angela Ahbez-Anderson, Councilmember

SECONDER:

Eileen Chapman, Councilmember

AYES:

Angela Ahbez-Anderson, Eileen Chapman, Yvonne Clayton, Amy Quinn, John Moor

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