

Ward 1 Graduate Intern Presentation

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Introduction

- I am a third-year law student at the University of St. Thomas, School of Law
- Before law school, I worked with Black Civic Network
- At the Black Civic Network, I led a get-out-to-vote campaign and voter registration efforts
- While interning with Ward 1, my role was to support community engagement and conduct listening sessions with the Reparations Commission
- Before starting the internship, my goal was to help the public become more aware of Ward 1 events and policies

What Was My Work With Ward 1?

Overview

- Promote listening sessions
- Invite stakeholders and constituents to attend events and become involved
- Promote events on social media to increase public engagement
- Promote the Reparations Commission
- Attend Commission meetings

What Did I Observe At Listening Sessions?

Key themes I observed included:

- Health disparities in the black community
- Community members expressing a desire for support for Descendants of Rondo, particularly regarding land restitution



Listening Session Themes (continued)

- Increased support for housing
- Programs to help individuals and organization utilize vacant property for economic development
- Identify health care providers who are allies of the black community



Methods Used For Public Engagement

- Created a monthly newsletter for Ward 1 constituents who signed up, updating them on events from the past month and highlighting upcoming events
- Posted updates on social media to inform the public about upcoming events and issues in Ward 1
- Attended meetings of community groups to observe and understand constituent priorities in Ward 1 (ex capital heights block club)

What Did I learn At Reparations Commission Meetings?

- Learned from various organizations about how they can partner with the ADOS community
- Gained insights from organizations on how they want to help the City of St. Paul grow and develop
- Learned the historical background of the development of Interstate 94



What Did I learn Overall?

- The importance of building trust within the community so that everyone feels heard
- The need for inclusive policy discussion that reflect what community members want and need
- Exploring best practices to ensure broad and meaningful engagement in Ward 1



Relationships Built During Internship

- Worked with St. Paul City Council Members and staff
- St. Paul Reparations Commissioners
- Met with various judges while working in the building
- Met with the City Attorney
- Met Mayor Melvin Carter

Strengths In Ward 1 This Year

- Ward 1 experienced strong participation in listening sessions and community events
- More than 20 people attended each listening session
- Strong engagement at booths during each event attended
- Built connections with key community groups and plan to continue these relationships next year

Questions?