

Reparations Legislative Advisory Committee

Draft Ordinance & Companion Report Presentation for City Council

BACKGROUND

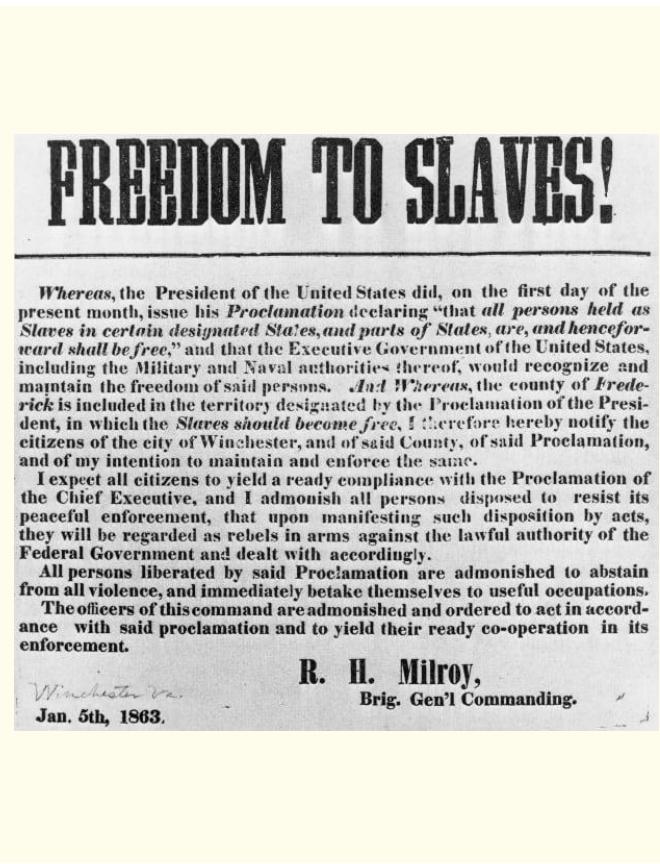
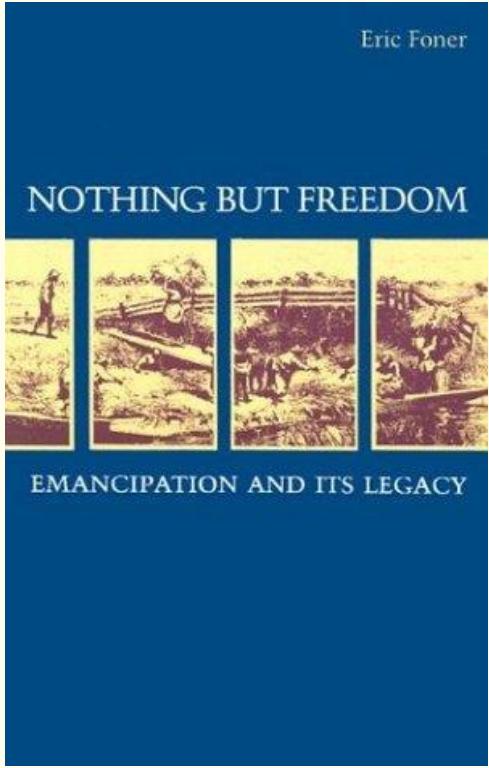


The Atlantic
250 years of slavery.
90 years of Jim Crow.
60 years of separate but equal.
35 years of state-sanctioned redlining.
Until we reckon with the compounding moral debts of our ancestors, America will never be whole.

THE CASE FOR REPARATIONS
BY TA-NEHISI COATES



Centering the committee's work and the work to come. . .



- We feel that it is important to acknowledge three items that will be essential to the long term success of this endeavor. They are
- Ensure adequate funding for programming and possible direct payments.
- Root the work of the commission in measurable objectives.
- The mayor, city council and city departments need to partner to support the work of the commission.

The Committee

- The Reparations Legislative Advisory Committee was established as a limited 1-year term committee that began meeting in June 2021.
- Committee is convened by Veronica Burt, Trahern Crews, and Dr. Yohuru Williams.
- In addition to the conveners, there are 9 committee members
 - Theresa Cunningham, Amber Jones, Benjamin Mchie, Nick Muhammad, Jessica Nickrand, Jose Perez, Khulia Pringle, Vic Rosenthal, Jerry Thomas.
 - The Advisory Committee's membership represented multiple perspectives, including education, faith, community activism, business, labor and health, youth and local historians.

The Charge & Process

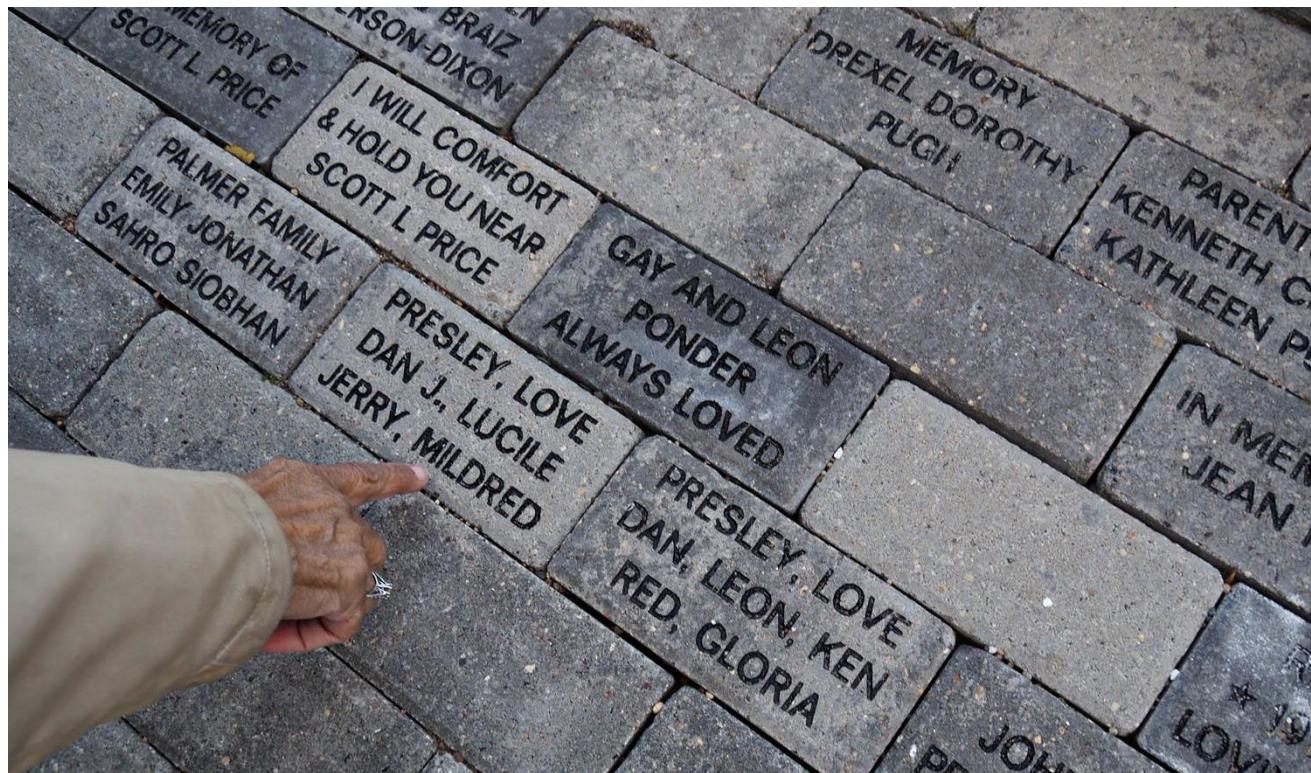
- Per Resolution 21-77: the Committee was formed to create the framework in the City's Codes for a permanent commission which will be known as the Saint Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission.
- Once established the commission will advise and recommend actions to address the creation of generational wealth for American Descendants of Chattel Slavery and boost economic mobility and opportunity in the Black community.
- As part of its work, the committee has drafted an ordinance for City Council consideration and a companion report which provides greater context for each section of the ordinance.
- The committee met twice a month to develop the documents that are being shared today and conducted 4 public meetings to received feedback on its work.

The Vision and Priorities

- The Advisory Committee envisions that the work of the Saint Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission will be to ensure delivery of reparations to the members of the American Descendants of Chattel Slavery, or ADOCS, community to establish the well-being of the ADOCS community.
- The Commission should:
 - Be informed by the United Nations principles for reparations including acknowledgement with action through Restitution, Rehabilitation, Compensation, Guarantee of Non-Repetition and Satisfaction in the pursuit of economic justice.
 - Be adequately funded and staffed to be able to fulfill its mission.
 - Ensure future programs are implemented in a way which measures their impact.

DRAFT ORDINANCE

PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION



The Saint Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "commission") serves as an advisory body to the mayor and city council on repairing the damage caused by public and private systemic racism in the City of Saint Paul which resulted in racial disparities in generational wealth, homeownership, health care, education, employment and pay, and fairness within the criminal justice system among the American descendants of chattel slavery.

ESTABLISHMENT; TERMS, VACANCIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- a)** ***Saint Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations commission established.*** There is hereby established a Saint Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations commission consisting of eleven (11) at-large members appointed by the Mayor of Saint Paul with the advice and consent of the city council.
- b)** ***Terms.*** Of the members first appointed, three (3) shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, four (4) for a term of two (2) years, and four (4) for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, the term of each member shall be three (3) years. Members shall serve no more than 2 consecutive terms.
- c)** ***Vacancies.*** Vacancies on the commission for whatever cause shall be filled by the mayor through the open appointment process for the unexpired term.
- a)** ***Qualifications.*** All members shall be residents of the City of Saint Paul.
 - i. To the extent possible, members shall be representative of the city's diversity of neighborhoods, races, cultures, ages, abilities, incomes and sexual orientations consistent with city's diversity and equity goals.
 - ii. Preference shall be given to candidates who demonstrate lived experience as it pertains to the work of the commission, are engaged in the local community and understand the role of reparations in addressing the impacts of chattel slavery.

STAFF AND BUDGET

- a) Staff.** *The commission shall be staffed by Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity (HREEO). The responsibilities of this department staff include:*
 - i. Serving as staff and recording secretary to the commission;*
 - ii. Reporting on departmental and/or citywide efforts on topics intersecting with or directly relating to the commission's work;*
 - iii. Advising the commission on matters pertaining to reparations when requested;*
 - iv. Administering the commission's budget; and*
 - v. Providing additional support service as needed.*
- b) Budget.** *For the operations of the commission, including staff salaries and other related expenses, such as travel, training, per diem, postage, copying and supplies, an annual proposed budget shall be submitted to the appropriate officials for inclusion in the city's budget.*

MEETINGS

- a) *The commission shall establish a regular time and place of meeting and shall meet monthly. At its first meeting each year, the commission shall elect its chair and vice chair.*
- b) *The commission shall establish rules and procedures for the conduct of its business. Notice of all meetings shall be published in accordance with proper notice procedures. A majority of all qualified commissioners shall constitute a quorum, and all business may be transacted by a majority vote of such quorum. Unless otherwise provided, any action taken by the commission shall be by the affirmative vote of a majority of its members.*
- a) *The commission shall keep a public record of its meetings. Copies of all minutes, motions, resolutions, findings and reports shall be available to the public upon request.*

POWERS AND DUTIES

The commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the mayor and city council in all policy and budget matters pertaining to reparations within the city through the following activities:

- a) Shall be empowered to make short, medium and long-term policy, program and budget recommendations to specifically address the creation and sustainment of generational wealth for the American Descendants of Chattel Slavery and to boost economic mobility and opportunity in the American Descendants of Chattel Slavery community;*
- b) Shall establish a work plan annually which will serve to notify city officials of the commission's priorities and activities;*
- c) Shall develop time-based evaluations of city expenditures using quality of life metrics as indicators of progress on reparations;*
- d) Review and advise on city programming and budgeting related to reparations;*
- e) Serve as an advocate for reparation efforts within the City; and*
- f) Conduct all business in such a manner as to encourage and utilize maximum citizen participation.*

COMPENSATION

Each member of the Saint Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission shall be paid seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each meeting of the commission the members shall attend. In addition, the commission may, from time to time, delegate to another commission or committee member(s) having the responsibility of representing the commission at special meetings or public hearings. Those commission member(s) serving as delegates shall receive fifty dollars (\$50.00) for such meetings or hearings that the member shall attend. The compensation set forth herein shall be the entire compensation to commission members for the performance of their duties. The City shall from time to time evaluate the compensation provided to commission members.

Community Feedback

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

ATTEND A COMMUNITY SESSION

HEAR FROM THE REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On January 12, 2021, City Council passed a resolution apologizing for the City's role in the institutional and structural racism experienced by American Descendants of Chattel Slavery. It also created this limited-term Legislative Advisory Committee which was tasked with creating the framework in the City's Codes for a **permanent** commission.

Attend a community session in April to learn more about their work and the ordinance proposal they will present to City Council in June.

Virtual Sessions - Registration Required

Co-hosted with the
East Side Freedom Library

Thursday, April 7
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 29
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/4buembuj>

In-Person Sessions

Thursday, April 14
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Dayton's Bluff Recreation center
800 Conway St, Saint Paul

Thursday, April 21
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Rondo Library
461 Dale Street N, Saint Paul

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/y76yy5m>

- Held 4 community sessions in April.
 - 2 in-person
 - 2 virtually
- Total participation was approximately 175 – 200 individuals



To learn more about the committee and view the draft ordinance visit
<https://tinyurl.com/2p84xuch>

STPAUL.GOV



COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

- Composition of commission
- Importance of genealogical research
- Key recipients of reparations work in Saint Paul



COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

- Nature of Reparations
- Education
- Ongoing Community Participation/Input



COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

General Comments



Key Considerations

- Ensure adequate funding for programming and possible direct payments.
- Root the work of the commission in measurable objectives.
- The mayor, city council and city departments should partner to support the work of the commission.

Saint Paul Public Library

The Saint Paul Public Library should be acknowledged for their important contribution to this work.

The Legislative Advisory Committee's work was immensely informed by the cooperative undertaking of the Saint Paul Public Library and Saint Paul City Council in developing a broad and deep list of reparations resource material.



SAINT PAUL
PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE END