From:	Tatiana Freeman
To:	*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc:	Anika Bowie; Rebecca Noecker; Saura Jost; Molly Coleman; Hwa Jeong Kim; Nelsie Yang; Cheniqua Johnson
Subject:	Support for Agenda Item 15 – Community-Led Reparations Harm Study Process
Date:	Monday, November 3, 2025 1:38:32 PM
Attachments:	Reparations Harm Study RFP.pdf

Good Afternoon Council Members,

Attached is my formal letter of support for Agenda Item 15, sponsored by Councilmember Anika Bowie. I am urging your "yes" vote at the November 5th Council meeting to advance a transparent, accountable, and community-led selection process for the Reparations Harm Study.

As outlined in the letter, this resolution corrects critical gaps in the City's current approach — including conflicts of interest, lack of community engagement, and the exclusion of Rondo's history — and ensures that the work of reparative justice remains grounded in those most impacted by systemic harm.

This is a pivotal moment for Saint Paul to reaffirm its commitment to equity and integrity in how we pursue reparations. I appreciate your leadership and thoughtful consideration as you deliberate on this important matter.

Thank you for your time and dedication to doing this work the right way.

Tatiana Freeman
Executive Director
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To: Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd W, Room 300
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: Support to Reopen the Reparations Harm Study RFP and Establish a Community-Driven Selection Process

Dear Council Members,

I'm the Executive Director for Aurora Saint Anthony Development Corporation and advocate for reparative justice, I write in strong support of creating a community-driven selection process for identifying the research team. I urge the Council to vote yes in favor of this resolution to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with the original intent of the Reparations Commission.

The City's current process raises three key concerns that this resolution aims to correct:

1 Conflict of Interest – The City cannot lead a study examining its own role in systemic racism and displacement of African descendants. The Reparations Commission's bylaws give the Chair authority to design the selection process, yet City staff have taken the lead in major decisions. The resolution restores the Commission's independence and integrity.

2 Lack of Outreach and Accessibility – The RFP was released with little to no community engagement and only three applicants. Many Black-led organizations and Rondo stakeholders were never notified or given the opportunity to apply. Reopening the RFP allows broader outreach and a fairer process.

3 Exclusion of Rondo's History – The omission of Rondo, the most visible site of harm against African descendants of Chattel Slavery in Saint Paul, shows a failure to include local context. Centering Rondo and the descendants most impacted ensures the study accurately reflects the historical and ongoing harms the City seeks to address.

This resolution provides a clear path forward. It calls for the Procurement Office to reopen the RFP for wider engagement and for a selection committee with majority community representation, including at least two Rondo descendants. These steps will make the process more inclusive, transparent, trustworthy, and credible.

Nothing about us, without us. The Reparations Harm Study should be led by the people most impacted — not the same institutions responsible for the harm. I urge the Council to vote yes on a community-driven process at the November 5th meeting and support a truly community-led process for reparative justice in Saint Paul.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to doing this work the right way.

Respectfully,

Tatiana Freeman

Tatiana Freeman

Executive Director

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