BLACK CIVIC NETWORK

Dear Councilmembers,

I have received a notice about the process our commission body has selected, to search for a research team to compile a “Harm Report”. I was unaware that the city would take the lead on the process. I’m concerned that the citizens of St. Paul wouldn’t know where their tax dollars were being invested in the name of reparations. I was very excited to join the commission since we were tasked with helping to realize reparations for ADOS descendants of the Rondo Avenue freeway tragedy and systemic racial policies harbored by the city past and present.

As of now we have not met with any city department in the pursuit of our bylaw mandates or made any policy recommendations outside of a request for city funding. This is deeply concerning to me as I am a ADOS community member, Rondo community beneficiary and believe in the ADOS cause for justice and reparations.

It would benefit all parties involved to pause and take a step back before we create any new problems. This and a few other challenges are the reason I have refused to take the monthly stipend as a commissioner. I think that the City of St. Paul has created a unique opportunity to take a step in the direction of justice and repair for its ADOS community. This is not a race but a process and would ask the city to examine our bylaw mandates and allow the commission to recenter with community input starting with the selection of the curators of the harm report.

Best Regard.

Bro.Nick Muhammad