AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** August 10, 2025

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Sala Menaya-Merritt, Department of Human Relations, Anti-Discrimination and Compliance

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** Sep 9, 2025

4. **Subject:** Community Reparations Commission Final Report and Presentation

5. **Action Requested:** Receive the report. The CRC will deliver a final presentation highlighting its work since its inception, with a particular focus on accomplishments during the six-month extension granted a year ago.

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** N/A

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** None at this time but if recommendations are implemented there will be financial impacts that cannot be specified at this time. Funding for these projects would come from the current Reparations line item which is currently budgeted at $3,531,359.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).** N/A

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** N/A

10. **Identify key issues: Background**:

- On July 14, 2020, the Asheville City Council passed a resolution supporting community reparations for Black Asheville.
- The members of the Community Reparations Commission (CRC) were appointed by Asheville City Council on March 8, 2022, and the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on March 15, 2022.
- The CRC was tasked with issuing a report in a timely manner to consider incorporating into short- and long-term, priorities and plans.
- Over the course of the process the CRC completed the following:
    - Presented an immediate recommendation to "Stop the Harm".
    - On January 24, 2023, the Asheville City Council approved a resolution authorizing development of a scope of work for a Cease the Harm Audit. Results of the audit were presented in March 2024
    - Organized a Community Engagement Committee where they developed a community engagement tool.
    - Engaged over 3,200 Black residents during the months of March and May 2024.

    - Established a working group composed of CRC members, City and County staff, and IFA Facilitators to complete the CRC report.
- August 2024 the Community Reparations Commission came before City County and requested an extension of time to complete the work of the CRC. This request was supported by staff
    - Council approved a six-month extension for the Community Reparations Commission through February 2025.
- In September 2024, our City was impacted by Tropical Storm Helene which devastated our community. This devastation delayed the start of the extension process.
- In March 2025, a retreat was held to begin the work from the extension request.
- Following the March retreat, special held virtual meetings have taken place on a monthly basis since April 2025.
- The Commission has successfully completed their work during the extension period.
    - During March 2025, they voted to focus on two impactful tasks: 1) Possible creation of a 501(c)3, and 2) Community Engagement work for the extension time period.
    - They voted on and passed the motion to create their own 501(c)3
        - Paperwork has been filed with the State of NC
        - They are in the process of creating their Board
    - Community Engagement work which included meeting in their respective IFA's and discussing recommendations as they relate to TS Helene Recovery.
- Final edits to the final report are in progress. This should be completed by the time of this meeting and attached to the staff report.