Manager's Report

June 8, 2021

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Resolution 20-128:
Supporting Community Reparations for Black Asheville

On July 14, 2020 the Asheville City Council passed a resolution supporting community reparations for Black Asheville.

Definitions of Reparations:

”*The action of repairing something”*

“The making of amends for wrong or injury done”

“The making of amends for a wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged”

The resolution calls for the city manager to, “establish a process within the next year to develop short, medium and long term recommendations to specifically address the creation of generational wealth and to boost economic mobility and opportunity in the black community.”

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Phase 1: Information Sharing and Truth Telling
May 2021/June 2021 - *Underway*

- Speaker Series: Recruit local and national speakers to share information followed by a facilitated discussion with the community about the community's:

  i. Past - History of Asheville identifying key policies, actions etc. at the federal and state with emphasis on local policies and private practices that created or advanced disparity. Identify locations within the community that were impacted

  ii. Present - Current trends, data and disparity related to the key focus areas to be discussed by the Commission.

  iii. Future - Futurist/visionary to identify potential for Asheville related to the key focus areas, latest efforts and initiatives and trends to help stimulate thought about what changes are needed and are possible.

Phase 1: Information Sharing and Truth Telling
May 2021/June 2021 - *Underway*

Desired Outcomes:

- Better understanding of policy impacts and where those impacts occurred
- Identify and understand current disparities and areas that need focus
- Identify barriers to addressing generational wealth
- Inspire our community to identify collaborative opportunities to create a more equitable Asheville
- Hear community perspectives about our past, present and future

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Phase 1: Information Sharing and Truth Telling
May 2021/June 2021 - *Underway*

- The speaker series is the beginning of an ongoing conversation.

- All of the comments received as part of the speaker series will be used to inform the development of a Reparations Commission.

- Comments from the speaker series will be presented to the commission which will be tasked with making short, medium and long term recommendations to Council.

June 3: Past Policies and Practices

Approximately 100 people seated in the room

183 views of the stream

45 people called in to listen by phone

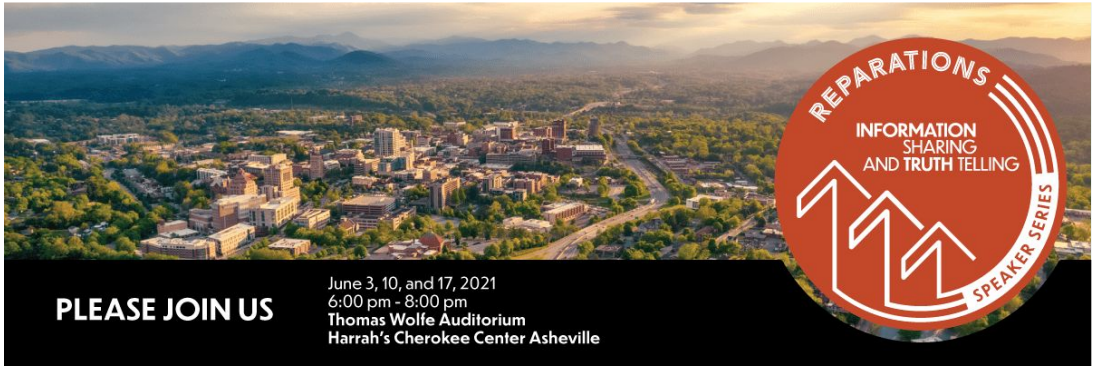
Total of 328 connected







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Doors Open at 5 p.m. Local DJ Damian Davis will provide music and Resiliency Trainers, MC Ellis and Michael Hayes will lead a resiliency talk from 5:40 - 5:55 pm.

There will also be a video booth setup before and after the event to offer another option for people to have their voices heard.

June 10 Panelists:

***Rinku Sen**, Executive Director of the Narrative Initiative.*

***Dr. Dwight Mullen**, Professor Emeriti, UNCA.*

***Jorge Redmond,** Assistant District Attorney, Buncombe County.*

***Dr. Marcus Harvey,** Associate Professor of Religious Studies, UNCA.*

June 17 Panelists:

***Tracey Greene-Washington,** President, Indigo Innovation Group, and Founder, CoThinkk.*

***Lakesha McDay,** Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Consultant.*

***Robert Thomas,** Racial Justice Coalition Community Liaison.*

Joseph T. Hackett, PhD



If you miss the events, videos can be found on the City's Public Engagement Hub and YouTube Channel

Comments can be emailed to reparations@publicinput.com

Voicemail comments can be left by calling 855-925-2801 Meeting Code 9040 beginning at 8:15 p.m. Thursday, June 10.

Comment cards will be available at community pop-up events held by the Buncombe County Community Engagement team.

Please stay tuned for more information to come on the City's website and Public Engagement Hub: www.ashevillenc.gov

Thank you!

This is event is made possible by Presenting Sponsors

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Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority

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Reparations Funding

- Tonight City Council will consider a resolution and budget amendment in the amount of $2,100,000 in the City's General Capital Projects Fund utilizing land sale proceeds to provide initial funding for reparations.
    - Funds community reparations and process in advance of celebration of the Juneteenth holiday.
    - Utilizes proceeds from the sale of city-owned land purchased in an Urban Renewal area to fund community reparations.

Next Steps

- ## Phase 2 - Formation of the Commission
  ## July - August 2021
  Desired Outcomes:
  - Recruit diverse representation to participate on the Commission i.e. include people from impacted areas with lived experiences coupled with subject matter experts.
  - Increased awareness of disparities and focus on potential strategies to address issues building on the various perspectives and/or experiences.

- ## Phase 3: Finalize and Present the Report
  ## January 2022 - April 2023
  Desired Outcomes:
  - Advancement of key strategies in a timely manner
  - Recommendations aligned with the City and County budget processes and schedules
  - Final recommendations to develop funding and implementation strategies

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