# Manager's Report

**June 22, 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.”

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

# Proposed Process Outline

## Three Phase Process

- PHASE 1:  Information Sharing and Truth Telling
  May 2021/June 2021- *completed*

- PHASE 2:  Formation of the Commission
  July 2021/August 2021

- PHASE 3: Finalize and present the report
  January 2022/April 2023

# Speaker Series Participation

**June 3, 2021 - Past Policies and Practices**

- Approximately 100 people seated in the room
- 45 people called in to listen by phone
- 20 information sharing videos
- 939 views on YouTube *(as of 9:00 am today)*

**June 10, 2021 - Present Trends and Disparities**

- Approximately 150 people seated in the room
- 21 people called in to listen by phone
- 35 information sharing videos
- 597 views on YouTube *(as of 9:00 am today)*

**June 17, 2021 - Future Initiatives**

- Approximately 175 people seated in the room
- Approximately 50 at Eddington Center
- 14 people called in to listen by phone
- 19 information sharing videos
- 469 views on YouTube *(as of 9:00 am today)*

Approximately **2560** Total Connections

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

# Thank You

## June 3 Panelists:

***Dr. William Turner**, Author*

***James Ferguson**, Civil Rights Attorney*

***Sasha Mitchell,** Family and Community Historian*

## 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

***Michael - Jamar Jean Francois***, Digital Media and Commercial Design

## 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.*

## Other Participants:

***Dr. Darin Waters**, Moderator, UNCA*

***Damian Davis**, DJ*

***Michael Hayes,** Resources for Resiliency*

***MC Ellis,** Resources for Resiliency*

***Shemekka Ebony**, Strategist & Consultant on Community Engagement*

***City of Asheville Staff***

# Reparations Funding

- On June 8, City Council passed 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.
    - Utilizes proceeds from the sale of city-owned land purchased in an Urban Renewal area
    - Funds community reparations and process

# 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

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

# Next Steps

- Compiling all information received during the Information Sharing and Truth Telling Speaker Series to share with the Reparation Commission when it is formed.

- Developing a Request for Proposals for project manager who will support the work of the Reparations Commission.

- Staff to make recommendations to City Council about the process and selection of Reparations Commission members.

# Thank you!

This is event is made possible by Presenting Sponsors

Explore Asheville
Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority

McKIBBON HOSPITALITY

and Sponsor

DUKE ENERGY®

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE