

WHEREAS in 1619 thousands of the victims of the Transatlantic (slave/slaves/slavery) trade more commonly referred to as “Negroes” began arriving involuntarily to the territory that would eventually be known as the Americas. They were forced into servitude and declared enslaved property within the 13 colonies.⁴³

WHEREAS in 1789 the Constitution of the United States of America was solidified. Negroes were still considered human property by leaving their status up to individual states.¹

WHEREAS the sale and acquisition of Negroes as slave laborers / property in interstate and intrastate commerce resulted in more than 450,000 Negroes trafficked between 1619 and 1808;^{2,42}

WHEREAS an estimated 4 million Negroes were granted full rights as citizens through the 13th Amendment’s prohibition of retaining and using humans as chattel slaves;³

WHEREAS slavery in the United States constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of cultural heritage, kinship ties, language, religion, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, denying citizenship rights and compensation for their forced labor;⁴

WHEREAS unpaid slave labor helped build the American economy, creating vast wealth that (Negroes) and their descendants were barred from;⁴³

WHEREAS America’s southern states became the economic engine producing tobacco, cotton and sugar cane that was empowered by the stolen labor of Negroes to the extent that by the start of the Civil War, the South produced 75 percent of the world’s cotton and created more millionaires per capita in the Mississippi River valley than anywhere in the nation;⁵

WHEREAS it is a common misconception that slavery was confined to the Confederate South, rather than a national one. The erasure or marginalization of the Northern Negro experience and the centrality of the business of slavery to the Northern economy allows for a dangerous fiction that the North has no history of racism to overcome. It also feeds into a false narrative that Negroes were not part of the founding of the Northern colonies, but they were;⁶

WHEREAS many tend to believe that the North has no obligation to address institutional racism or work toward reconciliation. In other words, contemporary racial disparities are often attributed to poor personal choices or, even worse, innate inferiority. Thus, fully comprehending how and why the institution of slavery is central to American history is essential for shaping our contemporary perception of American Negroes;⁷

WHEREAS slavery was enormously profitable, with the cotton trade alone constituted over half of the nation's wealth 50-60 percent of the value of the nation's total exports, helping pay for imports from abroad. And slave labor provided the raw material for Great Britain's textile mills, helping stimulate the world's early industrialization. Slave-produced commercial crops required a host of middlemen to sell and transport them to markets and to finance and supply the slave-owning planters. Southern cities such as New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, and Memphis and northern ports such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia depended heavily on the southern trade. Northern farmers and manufacturers found ready markets for their products in southern towns and cities, but especially on the southern plantations;⁸

WHEREAS the products of slave labor stimulated the nation's economic development, the slave South itself remained primarily agricultural and did not experience the urban and industrial growth that took place in the North;⁸

WHEREAS after the U.S. Civil War, on January 12, 1865, General William Tecumseh Sherman and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton met with a group of Negro community leaders, consisting of Negro Baptist and Methodist ministers from Savannah, Georgia and they were asked "what do you want for your own people?." They replied, "the way we can best take care of ourselves is to have land";⁹

WHEREAS on January 16, 1865, Special Field Orders, No. 15, were military orders issued during the American Civil War, by General William Tecumseh Sherman, commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi of the United States. They provided for the confiscation of 5.3 Million acres (24,448.34 km²) of land along the Atlantic coast of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and the dividing of it into parcels of not more than 40 acres (0.16 km²) approximately 40,000 formerly enslaved families settled on 400,000 acres of land. Special Field Order No. 15 was signed by President Lincoln, which was a contract giving citizenship and Federal Protection Status enforceable by the U.S. Military;¹⁰

WHEREAS after President Lincoln's assassination, his successor, President Andrew Johnson, explicitly annulled Special Field Orders No. 15, and returned land back to former slave owners, thus empowering and eventually paying reparations to some slave owners for loss of their Negro slaves;^{10,11}

WHEREAS there have been 4 successful assassination attempts on sitting United States President's. Out of those four individuals 3 of them stood unequivocally in line with Civil Rights and true repair for the American Negroes. The fourth president was killed for changing to the gold standard from both silver and gold. These facts make it hard to believe race doesn't play a significant role in our current political system!^{44,45}

WHEREAS following the abolition of slavery, the American government at the federal level continued to perpetuate, condone, and often profit from practices that continued to disadvantage Negroes; these practices included sharecropping, convict leasing, black Codes, Jim Crow laws, organized riots, unequal education, unequal access to power, mass incarceration, and unequal access to global civic programs and agendas. Civic organizations were able to operate while openly discriminating against Negroes and still have a nontax exempt status and disproportionate treatment at the hands of the criminal justice system;^{24,25,48}

WHEREAS this history profoundly handicapped the Negroes and their Descendants in their ability to create and accumulate wealth, as well as gain access to jobs, housing, education, and health care;

WHEREAS immediately following the Civil War and adoption of the 13th Amendment, most states of the former Confederacy adopted Black Codes, laws modeled on former slave laws. These laws were intended to limit the new freedom of emancipated Negroes by

restricting their movement and by forcing them into a labor economy based on low wages and debt;³

WHEREAS vagrancy laws allowed Negroes to be arrested for minor infractions. A system of penal labor known as convict leasing was established at this time. For example, Negroes convicted for vagrancy would be used as unpaid laborers, and thus effectively re-enslaved;²⁷

WHEREAS racial disparities in the criminal-justice system threaten Negro communities. Many believe that the 13th amendment ended slavery, yet there was an exemption that was used to create a prison convict leasing system of involuntary servitude to fill the labor supply shortage in the southern states after the Civil War. Black Codes regulated the lives of Black American Negroes and justice-involved individuals were often convicted of petty crimes, like walking on the grass, vagrancy, and stealing food. Arrests were often made by professional crime hunters who were paid for each “criminal” arrested, and apprehensions often escalated during times of increased labor needs. Even those who were declared innocent in the courts were often placed in this system when they could not pay their court fees. Companies and individuals paid leasing fees to state, county, and local governments in exchange for the labor of prisoners in farms, mines, lumber yards, brick yards, manufacturing facilities, factories, railroads, and road construction. The convict leasing fees generated substantial amounts of revenue for southern state, county, and local budgets, and lasted through World War II. There must be reformations in the criminal justice system so that modern prison slavery is not incentivized or promoted and is not ethnically biased.^{27,13} **WHEREAS** because of segregation and the continued effects of financial slavery through sharecropping many Negro children were unable to receive

an education or at least a very limited education was received. Most only attended through the 4th grade in the post civil war era. They would often get pulled out of school, if they had a school nearby, so they could go to help their parents on the farm. There was much less funding for black schools and teachers. Many times there wasn't enough money for two schools in a community and so there would only be one white school. Because of these and many other disparities Negro families were denied a meaningful education.^{48,13}

WHEREAS redlining policies were established in the 1930s and lasted for a little more than 30 years. Redlining was a predatory banking policy through the FHA which made it almost impossible for many Negroes to be able to receive loans to buy or improve a home because of the communities that they lived in. Before this at least as early as the 1920s many communities would establish restrictive covenants to prevent American Negroes and other minorities from coming into their neighborhoods and lowering their property values.⁴⁹

WHEREAS There were many disparities when it came to the Negro peoples right to vote. The Negro citizens sought to use their new found freedoms and status as citizens by voting but then in the south black codes were established to prevent them from doing so. In 1870 the 15th amendment was ratified, which was intended to insure the right to vote for the Negro male. Yet, there were still doors open to work around the law and so the Jim Crow Laws were established which created a system of segregation and thus for another almost 100 years the Negro American was restricted and limited from being able to exercise their right to vote in the south.^{50,13}

WHEREAS the disparities in the labor sector from the 1860s to around the 1960s have continued to limit the ability for Negroes and their descendants to build wealth. Systemic injustices were experienced through lack of access to land and financial tools, through segregation, through unequal pay and more.^{51,13}

WHEREAS When the Social Security Act of 1935 was enacted through the New Deal, Negroes were disproportionately left out of the benefits of the new social security system and as a whole the poor were the most negatively affected. The separate but equal doctrine was also utilized in the distribution of means-tested benefits and many Negro families who may have needed assistance were left out because of racially biased structures.⁵²

WHEREAS modern conceptualizations of reparations for descendants of enslaved persons have been heavily shaped by acts of redress by foreign governments for the atrocities and trauma they have inflicted on segments of their populations, including, but not limited to, German reparations of money and the west's gift of a country to Jewish survivors and their descendants of the Nazi Holocaust; political dissenters in Argentina and their descendants; and South African reparations to the victims of apartheid;^{55,56,57}

WHEREAS Americans have received compensation for historical injustices before, including Japanese Americans interned in concentration camps during World War II; Alaskan Natives for land, labor and resources taken; survivors of police abuses in Chicago; (Negroes and their Descendants) were victims of the massacre and burning in Rosewood Florida by a murderous white mob, and may we never forget all this happened on land that was taken from indigenous tribes unjustly. Those tribes were eventually given land back for the wrongs the United States government had committed;¹⁷

WHEREAS the contributing factor to intergenerational resource deficiencies among (Negroes and their Descendants') families is 175 years of slavery since 1789, followed by Congressional mismanagement of the Freedman's Savings Bank, violent massacres throughout the nation that decimated (Negroes and their Descendants') communities, and de facto segregation in every region of this nation that limited opportunities in many states, making it virtually impossible for them (Negroes and their Descendants') to accumulate wealth to hand down as inheritance;⁵³

WHEREAS the New York City "anti-draft" riots of 1863 harnessed antipathy towards ending slavery due to its economic impact on the nation's financial center, targeted New York's Negro communities with lynchings, and created extensive homelessness among the Negro communities population for which there was no recompense {foreshadowing future assaults on Negro communities across America};^{18,28}

WHEREAS following WWII and the stated universal eligibility of the G.I. Bill, Negroes and their Descendants were subjected to segregationist policies in its implementation due to the deference given to Southern states to exercise their 'state's rights' to exclude (Negroes and their Descendants) veterans from educational opportunities, employment opportunities, and banking loans for both business and land/home ownership;²⁹

WHEREAS during the construction of the national highway system, urban communities of (Negroes and their Descendants) were specifically targeted for elimination, with highways through largely poor (Negroes and their Descendants') neighborhoods

displacing close to a million people and resulting in decreased property values and wealth for those (Negroes and their Descendants) who remained;³⁰

WHEREAS the median wealth of a white family is \$188,200 and the median wealth of a Negro descendant family is \$24,100, a difference \$164,000; This wealth Gap was intentionally created by slavocracy-minded organizations such as the Knights of the Golden Circle, who became the Order of the American Knights, and finally the Order of the Sons of Liberty before going underground. Their number one objective was to advocate that the new territories should be annexed by the United States, in order to vastly increase the number of slave states and thus the power of the slave-holding Southern upper classes would be strengthened;^{12,14,15}

WHEREAS Negro households make up about 13.4 percent of the nation's population but possess less than 4 percent of the nation's wealth;¹⁶

WHEREAS the rate of (Negroes and their Descendants') homeownership in America was 42.1% according to 2019 census numbers and white homeownership rate was approximately 73 percent;³¹

WHEREAS the unemployment rate for (Negroes and their Descendants) are two times higher than it is for those of European descent in 2022;³⁶

WHEREAS Negroes have been historically discriminated against through lack of opportunity such as, the Homestead Act of 1862, redlining, and loan and housing policies that dictated where (Negroes and their Descendants') could live and prevented them from becoming homeowners. As well as predatory lending practices and development efforts, such as urban renewal and gentrification, that have resulted in mass displacement and loss of opportunity for wealth building;⁵⁴

WHEREAS Medical apartheid has occurred to the American Negro much too often in their land of forced origin. These atrocities were allowed and committed by the United States Government. The segregation of the medical institutions and education created a great divide in the quality of medical care that was accessible to the American Negro. The US may no longer have segregated hospitals but because of the economic issues which continue within Negro communities the quality of health care that is accessible stays inferior.^{37,38,39,40}

WHEREAS the prevalence of Negro entrepreneurs in the cannabis industry varies from state to state, but few states meet a 5% Negro ownership rate. In Colorado, Michigan, and Nevada, Negro entrepreneurs account for 2.7%, 3.8%, and 5.1% of cannabis business respectively, according to Marijuana Business Daily's 2021 Women and Minorities in the Cannabis Industry Report. In Colorado's capital, Denver, only 5.6% of cannabis business owners are Negro, and the majority—75%—are white, according to a 2020 survey by the Denver Department of Excise and Licenses. Heavy-handed policing in communities of color, according to Salzhauer, has led to both higher arrest rates for minorities and stark disparities in cannabis business ownership.^{21,32}

WHEREAS nationwide (Negroes and their Descendants) continue to experience evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness at statistically far greater rates than their white peers.^{20,31}

WHEREAS while there is not universal support for the functionality of in-market discrimination from the cross-national data, there is sufficient support to suggest that it provides a credible framework for analyzing the dynamics of intergroup disparity. What does appear

to be universal is the functionality in all circumstances where there is a dominant and subaltern group of the denial of the presence of discrimination;¹⁵

WHEREAS members of the dominant group prefer an ideological posture that emphasizes the role of deficient premarket characteristics of the subaltern group. Whether it is Due to their own conscience or unconscious biases the inadequacies which the dominant group has been inconveniently placed at both ends of the spectrum. Rendering the subaltern group non-competing both by lowering the quantity and quality of human capital subaltern group members accumulate before entering the labor market and then by reducing their odds of receiving appropriate rewards for the human capital they manage to accumulate when members of the subaltern group enter the labor market.¹⁵

WHEREAS civic organizations' most rapid growth occurred after WWI, when civic organizations expansion swept through small communities all across the country and followed American business interests all over the world. In America, town retailers, small manufacturers, doctors, lawyers, and educators eagerly joined these new vehicles of community spirit and breezy camaraderie. Businessmen have played a prominent role in the voluntary life of America's community;³⁴

WHEREAS though service and fellowship were its aims, civic organizations membership was explicitly chosen on the basis of occupation and thus was much more closely connected to business life than earlier more closely connected to business life than earlier more socially oriented civic organizations and fraternities;³⁴

WHEREAS starting in the twenties, Rotary and Lions clubs tolerated foreign members with dark skin at international conventions but refused to associate on the weekly basis with

Negro businessmen from their own town. Civic engagement officials were well aware of this contradiction, and Paul Harris hopefully answered "yes" to the question "Can we absorb the Negro?" which he posed in Rotarian in 1927;³⁴

WHEREAS the civil war won freedom for the enslaved Negroes of America through the blood spilled by Union soldiers. This was a war which was fought for the principles of freedom upon which this country was established. The Union had won freedom for the slaves and the spoils of war were defined in the Special Field Orders 15. The victory of the Union was stolen by the assassination of President Lincoln. President Andrew Johnson betrayed the newly freed Negroes through taking away the lands won by the Union and returning it to Confederate hands. Where do we as Americans stand today, with the Union or the Confederates?

WHEREAS the average value of land per acre in Florida is \$34,900, in Georgia \$30,000, and in South Carolina \$22,100. A basic average of these three values is \$29,000. Field Orders 15 promised prime coastal, agricultural, and river access land, and as such we add a 25% premium to this average value to produce an acreage value of \$36,250 in today's economy. If you included the average \$300,000 per acre value of the sea islands off the coast of these three states, which was included in the field order, the value would increase. 40 acres of land at \$36,250 has a cash value of \$1.45 million US dollars. This reparation shall compensate each qualifying individual (head of household) a one-time MINIMUM cash payment of \$1.45 million dollars, qualification to be based on lineage as a direct descendant of an enslaved Black American Negro, through clear documentation or through blood testing. This is a codified race based solution to what is and has been a

codified race based harm. Resulting in a minimum reparations payment of more than \$15 trillion nationally. ^{35,41,46,47}

WHEREAS the federal government is culpable for its actions regarding slavery and the many other atrocities and injustices noted throughout history against (like Negroes and their Descendants);

WHEREAS reparations are not solely a symbolic act -- they are a demand for justice.

Reparations do not hold current citizens responsible for the sins of their forefathers, they right an atrocious wrong and serve as an economic amends for past injustices and persistent disparities, making one race or person feel guilty or ashamed;

WHEREAS reparations are driven by the need for the atonement and redemption of America.

Reparations are about conciliation and propelling us toward a more just and equitable future: Now, therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY (_____) AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: (_____) fervently and unequivocally supports a federal reparations program to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1789 and 1964, and legal segregation and accrued disadvantages for descendants of slavery;

SECTION II: (_____) strongly urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to recognize the term Negro instead of “African American” in the examination of the legacy of slavery and recommendations for redress;

SECTION III: (_____) recommends the Act’s title be amended to read, “Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for Negroes and their Descendants.

As a result of this study, reparations should only be awarded to individuals who are direct descendants of persons who were enslaved in the United States;

SECTION V: that federal reparations legislation should direct a commission to produce a report with the following characteristics: 1) the bill should direct the commission to identify Descendants of Slavery in the U.S. as the eligible recipients; 2) the bill should direct the commission to develop plans that set elimination of the racial wealth gap as a core target; 3) the bill should direct the commission to ensure that its plans prioritize direct payments to eligible recipients; and 4) the bill should direct the commission to designate the federal government as the party responsible for making the payments;

SECTION VII: (_____) recommends that upon passage of this bill and subsequent signing into law by the President of the United States, that the commission’s work be completed and delivered to the President no later than 365 days from signing, and further than the implementation of the commission’s recommendations be acted on no later than 90 days from delivery;

SECTION VIII: (_____) further recommends that anti-Negro hate crime legislation be created that specifically addresses hate crimes directed against the (Negroes and their Descendants) community, as 1) the FBI has identified that anti-Negro hate crimes far exceed hate crimes against any other racial or ethnic group, and 2) anti-Negro hate crimes substantially

increased from 2019 to 2020.²⁷ This bill should be titled Preventing Anti-Negro Hate Crimes Act.

SECTION VIII: (_____) shall transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to each Senator and Representative from the State of Washington in the Congress of the United States, and to the Governor of the State of Washington;

The only way the Negro community can be made whole is by giving what our ancestors were promised in Special Field Order no. 15. That contract can only be fulfilled when the U.S Government pays the debt they owe to the American Negro. Repair can only truly be attained by completing the following demands.

1. Restitution, which should restore the victim to their original situation before the violation occurred, e.g. restoration of liberty, reinstatement of employment, return of property, return to one's place of residence.
2. Which should be provided for any economically accessible damage, loss of earnings, loss of property, loss of economic opportunities, moral damages.
3. Rehabilitation, which should include medical and psychological care, legal and social services.
4. Satisfaction, which should include the cessation of continuing violations, truth-seeking, search for the disappeared person or their remains, recovery, reburial of remains, public apologies, judicial and administrative sanctions, memorials, and commemorations.

Credits to: First and foremost, our "ANCESTORS whom sang NEGRO Spirituals"! Jamin Mason (Negro Reparationist) Kitsap County, WA State, research and interviews, Khalif Q. Mitchell (Negro Reparationist, Guidance, Negro Scholarship, TRUTH FINDER, RECEIPT BRINGER) Virginia Beach VA - research, Audrey Latimer (Grass Roots Activist) King County WA - research, Aja F. (Black Panther Party of WA) Pierce County WA - research, Rashid Littlejohn (Chair, New Negro Republic) New York, New York-Historian, Truth Finder, Primary source researcher, Valarie B. (Secretary, New Negro Republic) GA- research, Roland C. A. Dunham II, (The Negro Black Knight Heritage Club) New London Connecticut - research, Chavone Garza- editing and research, Jesse Wineberry (Atty with W.E.N.A) King County WA outreach, Jason Call (Progressive Activist) WA - research and format, and last but far from least Washington Equity Now Alliance (W.E.N.A), for connecting many dots and facilitating this intricate process!

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Respectfully,

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