Alderman Simmons introduced Mark Edward Alston, owner of Skyway Realty and Alston & Associates Mortgage Company and Public Policy Strategist in the areas of housing and finance.

**Presentation**
Mark Edward Alston gave a presentation to the subcommittee and public regarding “The State of Housing in Black America”. Mark noted the following statistics:

- 44% of Black Americans own homes in America
- 73.7% of White Americans own homes in America
- There is a 29.7% gap between white and black homeownership in America.
- Real Estate appraisals in the black neighborhoods are a major issue, with a 31.14% black denial rate for mortgages.
- Blacks have a 14.6% population in the United States, but only receive a rate of 6% of new mortgages.
- In Chicago, 13,190 black applied for homeownership but only 5,200 blacks were approved for homeownership.

Factors that have blocked black homeownership included exclusionary zoning ordinances, steering, private covenants, government redlining, outside appraisal management companies, and financial services.

Mark suggested the following remedies for housing & redlining in Evanston
- Use the reparations fund for housing and building expansion in the black community.
• Plan for loans from local banks and make sure there is a pre-purchase to ensure residents fit the guidelines for the banks to approve.
  o Start a grant of $10,000-$15,000 for homeowners/home buyers in Evanston, particularly in the 5th ward.
  o Have down payment assistance in the form of a grant.
  o Find a way to make the capital self-sustaining for Evanston.