The City of Evanston Reparations Ordinance supported by funding is the first of its kind by any governmental body in the United States of America and, therefore, the process for its implementation is new as well. Additionally, the City’s Resolution to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity represents an extraordinary initiative to heal racism in fact.

We are fortunate to have many assets at our disposal. We have courageous and capable city elected officials. We have engaged elected officials and concerned citizens which have created the Equity and Empowerment Commission leading to the passage of an Ordinance to achieve reparations for Blacks in Evanston to attain a more equitable and fair community. We also have staff experienced in managing other programs to assist in facilitating a clear and transparent process to achieve reparations and equity. We also have a progressive and diverse community of leaders from the religious and secular sectors, including higher education, who are willing to actively engage on various levels to sustain this work. Further, we are fortunate to have the support of veteran and new thought leaders from various streams of the movement for reparations in the US and internationally, such as those from the National African-American Reparations Commission (“NAARC”), the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (‘NCOBRA) and others who have shared their experience and certain basic principles to provide guidance.

History of this Deeply Rooted Reparations Ordinance and the Resolution to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equality in the City of Evanston

The facts that undergird the decision of the City Council to pass the Reparations Ordinance 126 R-19 and the Resolution 58R-19 to end structural racism and achieve racial equity in the City of Evanston are clear and convincing. Reparations are due locally, nationally and internationally for damages done to the descendants of the formerly enslaved Africans in general and African-Americans in particular. The United Nations has found and declared that slavery, the slave trade, and colonialism are crimes against humanity and that reparations are due to those who have been damaged by such crimes. The survival of African-Americans is not an offset of the crimes committed against their foremothers and forefathers. In addition to the tremendous damages resulting from the MAAFA/Holocaust of slavery inside the United States; the post slavery Jim Crow policies and terrorist practices of lynching, murder, systematic unjust mass incarceration; governmentally sanctioned redlining; deprivation of rights, properties and opportunities; the massive denial of health care; the experimentation done upon Black bodies such as the Tuskegee Experiment and others; were and are further crimes against humanity necessitating reparations for those who were directly injured and their descendants. The tremendous social, economic, educational, health, housing, criminal injustice, and other inequities that characterizes the state of affairs of blacks in general and in Evanston in particular are derived from the above noted history.

In 2002, the Evanston City Council passed a resolution to support HR40, a federal bill that, if passed, would have authorize the study of the impact and the consequences of slavery on African-Americans and to determine a process of repairing the harm done so that we can build a better
society. That resolution also advised that the two School Districts 202 and 65 serving the student population of Evanston to address the educational disparities between black and white students and to reform curriculum content to correct historical omissions.

It is even more courageous for the current City Council to have passed the current Ordinance authorizing funding for Reparations for its black citizens who have suffered damages and continue to be damaged by unjust practices of the past and the current Resolution to end structural racism and achieve racial equality in the City of Evanston.

SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF DAMAGES THAT CITY COUNCIL MUST REPAIR BASED ON PAST HARM BLACKS SUFFERED FROM PAST DISCRIMINATION AS PER THE REPARATIONS ORDINANCE AND THE EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT RESOLUTION

1) The City Council must work on repairing damages done in the area of housing from officially sanctioned Jim Crow Red Lining, government-sanctioned exclusionary lending policies, other acts of denial of equal access to mortgage loans and other unfair housing policies. Such history is very well documented in studies conducted by Dino Robinson and others upon which our local publication, the Evanston Roundtable, relied to publish a comprehensive exposé of such practices and their consequences on December 5, 2019. See article: https://evanstonroundtable.com/Content/Default/Top-Stories-Left/Article/Developing-a-Segregated-Town-1900-1960/-3/223/17298).

2) Concerning the underdevelopment of the Black Business sector of our city of Evanston. The statistics are still being collected. However, even Leon Robinson, one of the most successful Black businesspersons in the City had to by-pass discriminatory practices to exercise his right to conduct business without discrimination. Leon Robinson had to purchase property downtown Evanston though a straw buyer because restrictive covenant prevented him from doing the purchase outright. Historical and contemporary denial of access to contracts and business development opportunities results in business underdevelopment. The Black business men and women in our community fought for equity in allocation of contracts and now everyone else have preference. The hard-won remedy of MWEBE did not go far enough to resolve discrimination of the basis of race.

3) The City’s Resolution to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity commits the City to “…eradicating the effects of systemically racist past practices from City Government and all City-affiliated organizations.” The Black community has always been at the crosshair of the attention of law enforcement in this City for as long as Blacks have lived here. Black residents, Black males in particular, are often targeted for discriminatory law enforcement practices resulting in underdeveloped futures through excessive harassment, incidents of stop and frisk, police brutality, unjust arrests, accumulation of records, mass incarceration, family-separation, damages to mental wellness/health, or otherwise. Living-While-Black in such an environment results in constant paranoia about the police and fear of the eminent lethal danger that they represent. The eminent threat that discriminatory policing practices pose and the sense and actual powerlessness to fix such discriminatory exercise of brutality and intimidation is traumatic. Thus, the community needs remediation to achieve a level of wellness from the constant fear that their lives may be in danger just for being black. Our
City’s police department must stop the harmful practices and the City must provide as much repair as possible so that those harmed may heal.

As well, the marginalization of the Black community and its residents by institutionalized discriminatory policies and practices also manifested itself in the realm of education. Although, education is not under the authority of the City, the failings of our educational institutions have significantly stunted the growth, development, and the well-being of the Black residents and thus our community. It cries out for remediation. There has always been a major gap between the achievements of Black and white children. Such a gap has been declared unacceptable theoretically, yet not overcome. The educational institutions’ low expectations of Black children have historically translated into such practices as tracking children in remedial curriculum that under-prepared them from as early as kindergarten, throughout elementary school, Junior High, High School. In the most severe cases, some of these students end up being medicated, having extensive disciplinary records and are often placed in alternative schools. Some end up with difficulties overcoming poverty and overwhelmingly the target of the police in this City.

THE PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE THE REPARATIVE PROCESS IN EVANSTON

Firstly, reparative remedies can be individual or collective solutions which seek to CURE HARM CAUSED BY PAST DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES. These remedies will achieve compensation; and/or restitution; and/or rehabilitation, and/or cessation of the harmful discriminatory conduct, and/or satisfaction of the needs of those who have been harmed. Reparative remedies are distinct from regular policies and practices intended to provide on-going services due to all residents of a district, city, county, state, or a nation.

Secondly, it is those who have been damaged i.e. black people, who must determine the specific remedies for the damages black people have suffered. They are truly the STAKEHOLDERS of this process. Stakeholders emanate, derive, come from, originate from the Black community. Their DNAs are marked by the scars of years of suffering from and of resisting racist discrimination directly or indirectly. They must help determine the specific remedies guided by the arc of justice to remedy past wrongs.

SPECIFIC STRUCTURE TO RECOMMEND REMEDIES FOR FUNDING TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The Stakeholders group shall become the Stakeholders Reparations Authority (SRA) to work in concert with the Reparations Sub-Committee that is currently made up of three (3) aldermen from the 2nd, 5th and 8th wards which are those wards with significant black populations. Together, they will have the power to receive and approve proposals for funding and approved recommendation to the City Council for funding authorization within the prescribed fields of housing, economic/business development, and wellness.
COMPOSITION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS REPARATIONS AUTHORITY (SRA) AND HOW CHosen:

1) The SRA will be made up of stakeholders from the Evanston community. The names of the individuals with pertinent information will be submitted by the Reparations Subcommittee to the Mayor for appointment. The Mayor will ratify the choices and issue a letter of appointment for a specific term with the appropriate instructions.

The appointments will be for two (2) years and may be renewable. Representatives will be pooled from active organizations that best represent the interests of Evanston’s Black community (see appendix for a directory of organizations). The total representatives will consist of at least 9 and no more than 13 members during a term cycle. Terms will stagger with approximately 50% rotating off every year to maintain transparency, fairness and rounded representation throughout the lifespan of the SRA.

PROCESS AND PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION, CONSIDERATION, DELIBERATION AND APPROVAL OF REPARATIVE REMEDIES FOR FUNDING

1. The City of Evanston shall authorize the Reparations Sub-Committee and the Reparations Stakeholders Authority (RSA) to utilize the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) model and staff to receive remedies/benefits proposals to make ready such remedies/benefits proposals to the RSA and Reparations Sub-Committee for consideration, deliberation, and recommendations. The value of the CDBG model is that it is predictable, efficient, inclusive, and transparent.

2. The RSA and the Reparations Sub Committee will function on a quarterly schedule following a similar pattern of meetings as does the Housing and Community Development Act Committee (CDBG Committee) that oversees CDBG to consider and deliberate over proposals, decide on remedies to be funded and to forward such recommendations to the Submitted;

3. The Reparations Stakeholders Authority (RSA)/Reparations Sub-Committee
   a. shall be staffed by the staff of the CDBG Committee staff given its similarity of function.

4. Functional Procedures of the Reparations Stakeholders Authority and Reparations Sub Committee
   a. The Reparations Stakeholders Authority RSA and Reparations Sub Committee shall work to issue funding recommendations on a quarterly basis. Staff shall issue a call for proposals to the community at large via written publication, email, web-based communication, and a public meeting. The call for proposals may include information such as the amount of funding available for allocation, estimated number of applications that will be funded, area of possible funding or other pertinent information. A timeline with the due date for submission of proposals, and the schedule for their review and approval will be published with each call for proposals.
The timeline for each call for proposals will be reviewed and approved by the Reparations Stakeholders Authority/Reparations Sub Committee in advance of its release.

Anyone will be able to submit proposals via a specific proposal/application form that will have the necessary guidelines to perfect the proposals. Applications will be due approximately 30 days following the call for proposals. Applications will be time-stamped and filed with the designated office. Staff will provide a list of applications received to the Reparations Stakeholders Authority/Reparations Sub Committee immediately following the due date. Staff will review and communicate with each applicant during a period of approximately 30 days to seek to perfect such proposals and advance same to the Reparations Stakeholders Authority/Reparations Sub Committee. If an application fails to be perfected for submission during a funding cycle, it may be advanced in time for the subsequent funding cycle. Staff will submit the proposals to the Reparations Stakeholders Authority/Reparations Sub Committee to allow members sufficient time to review all proposals, estimated to be at least 14 days prior to the RSA’s and Subcommittee period of deliberation;

b. The RSA/Reparations Sub Committee will meet publicly according to a prescribed schedule, deliberate openly to approve, or disapprove proposals. An agenda listing the proposals that will be discussed at each public review meeting will be posted on the City’s website at least 48 hours in advance. At the end of the deliberation period, the SRA/Reparations Sub-Committee will make its funding recommendations for remedies weighing in the three main areas for City Council authorization to seek reparative repair in the realm of:

**Housing:** (Down payment, Refinance, Rehab, Retention)

**Wellness:** (Social Services, Mental and Physical Health, Criminal Justice, Education, Preservation of History and Culture, etc.)

**Business/Economic Development:** (Training, Start-up)

**Education:** (Scholarship, Culture, Subject specific classes)
Appendix

Directory of current and possible organizations to draw membership from as of 2020
new entities can be added at any time
(#) = suggested representatives

Nonprofits
   Evanston Own It (2)
   Advocates for Action (1)
   Shorefront (1)
   NAACP (1)
   Black Business Consortium (1)
   Foster Senior Club (1)
   [*other organizations?]

Community
   Members at large with specific expertise (2)
   Block Clubs (2)

City Related (non-voting representatives)
   Equity and Empowerment Commission (1)
   Reparations Sub-Committee (1)