

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

NAACP

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SF NAACP Rejects \$5 Million Reparation Payment to Blacks

Calls for Reparations to Focus on Investments and Opportunities in Five Key Areas at Board of Supervisors Meeting on Reparations Today

San Francisco—The San Francisco NAACP today called upon the Board of Supervisors to reject a one-time \$5 million reparation payment to Blacks but instead called upon the City to make investments in five key areas to atone for a history of racism, discrimination and mistreatment.

The Rev. Amos Brown today said that the <u>Board of Supervisors</u>, <u>which is holding a hearing today at 3 p.m. on the city's Reparations Plan and Dream Keeper Initiative</u>, should redirect its focus on providing five key elements as part of reparations: education, jobs, housing, healthcare and a cultural center for Blacks in San Francisco.

"We strongly believe that creating and funding programs that can improve the lives of those who have been impacted by racism and discrimination is the best path forward toward equality and justice," Brown said.

He called upon the City to:

- 1. <u>Invest in education</u>: "Black students don't perform as well as their peers. We need remedial programs to help our children with reading, math, and science. The school district and the city have a moral obligation to raise up all children and especially those whose families have been disadvantaged by discrimination."
- Economic Empowerment: "With President Biden's Infrastructure Bill we want to see more Black people
 get the opportunity to get jobs on the billions of dollars in infrastructure work that will be done in our
 community and our state."
- 3. Housing: "We want more housing, more public housing, more affordable housing, for Blacks. There should be preferential treatment for Blacks to keep our people in this city. San Francisco has fallen from 16 percent Black population to less than 5 percent. We need a new version of "40 acres and a mule" that benefits and assists Blacks to live and thrive in San Francisco, a city that has done everything it can to drive us out through discrimination as even wholesale removal during through 'urban renewal' programs in the 1960s and 1970s."
- 4. <u>Healthcare</u>: "Blacks don't have the same lifespan as the majority population. We need programing that positively impacts our health, our longevity, and our mental health."
- 5. <u>Fillmore Heritage Center</u>: The Redevelopment Agency destroyed a great deal of the "Harlem of the West" when it instituted urban renewal programs and drove Black businesses and residents out of San Francisco. Our people need a Black center of town, just as there is a Japantown, a Chinatown, we need to preserve and protect the Fillmore Heritage Center and the surrounding blacks not only as an historic center of our people, but as place to gather and grow the Black community for future generations."