

RESOLUTION

By Jenkins

Establishing a truth and reconciliation process for the City of Minneapolis.

Whereas, the Indigenous nations who resided on this land prior to the arrival of European settlers, have experienced a history of broken promises, violence, deprivation, and disease; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis recognizes that Africans were forcibly brought to this country, enslaved, and that the social construction of race was used to justify their enslavement as well as the removal of Indigenous nations off their land; and

Whereas, 38 Dakota men were hanged on December 26, 1862, in Mankato, Minnesota in the largest one-day mass execution in American history; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis recognizes the annexation of Dakota homelands for the building of our city, and knows Indigenous nations have lived upon this land since time immemorial and the land itself carries this historical trauma; and

Whereas, the Dakota people were driven off this land at the hands of our State and Federal government, with Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey declaring that the Dakota people “must be exterminated or driven forever beyond the borders of the State”; and

Whereas, after the Emancipation of Slavery, Minnesota continued to mistreat African Americans living in the state through exclusionary practices including terrorizing and lynching African Americans who posed a threat; redlining and destroying African American communities and businesses; moving jobs away from the central cities with the build out of the freeway system; mass incarceration; and disinvestments in public education; and

Whereas, Blacks who lived outside of redlined areas experienced terror and harm from white residents; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis destroyed a vibrant Black neighborhood in the construction of I-35; and

Whereas, American Indians did not start returning to this land until they were forced off their reservations in the 1950s; and

Whereas, racism against African Americans and American Indians has various forms including historical, individual, internalized, interpersonal, institutional, systemic and structural that has not only continued to this day but has transformed to ensure the concentration of material, power and resources in the hands of white bodied individuals; and

Whereas, Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis has some of the most severe racial inequities in the country; and

Whereas, African Americans make up 31% and American Indians make up 8% of the incarcerated population but only 7% and 1%, respectively, of the statewide population; and

Whereas, African American (37%) and American Indian (34%) adults are overrepresented in Minnesota's homeless population; and

Whereas, the statewide average for attainment of a bachelor's degree is 52% while the African American rate is 32.7% and American Indian rate is 22.6%; and

Whereas, 32% of all Minnesotan communities are above risk guidelines for air quality but a disproportionate 91% of communities of color and indigenous communities are above risk guidelines; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis median household income is \$68,000 for White families while African American families have a median household income of only \$30,000; and

Whereas, African Americans in Minneapolis experience unemployment at three times that of White residents; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has the largest home ownership disparity between White and African American families; 76% of white families own their homes, while the home ownership rate of African American families is 25%; and

Whereas, in Minneapolis, African American and American Indians are three times more likely to live below the poverty line than White residents; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis recognizes August 20, 2019, as the 400 Year Commemoration of Resistance and Liberation of African Americans in the City of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis declared racism as a public health emergency;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

Section 1. A working group is hereby established that will be tasked with exploring the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation process, and that this group will study the meaning of reconciliation, research different models of truth and reconciliation commissions, and understand the impact that such a process might have on the City of Minneapolis and its residents. The ultimate objective of the reconciliation and transformational racial healing process is to name and address the harms that have perpetuated racial disparities by implementing specific solutions with a prioritized focus on healing with historically Black/American Descendants of Slavery and American Indian/Indigenous communities, recognizing that the issues of anti-Blackness and Native sovereignty continue to perpetrate harm against all groups.

Section 2. The Division of Race & Equity is directed to lead an enterprise-wide effort, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, City Council, Civil Rights Department, City Coordinator's Office, City Attorney's Office, City Clerk, and other departments to explore the formation of a truth and reconciliation process for the City of Minneapolis, specifically by:

1. Consulting with local and national truth and reconciliation experts, those skilled in conflict resolution, and other key stakeholders to:
 - Understand the meaning of reconciliation;
 - Research different models of truth and reconciliation commissions; and

- Understand the impact of a truth and reconciliation process on the City of Minneapolis.
2. Developing the organizational capacity and framework required for a City-led truth and reconciliation process. Activities include, but are not limited to:
 - Secure a consultant to facilitate initial phases of the truth and reconciliation process;
 - Develop shared goals and desired outcomes for a truth and reconciliation process;
 - Determine a scope for the focus of the process;
 - Ensure alignment between the truth and reconciliation process and other related City processes;
 - Determine proposed near, mid and long-term actionable steps the City can take that contribute towards achieving the goals and objectives with tentative timeline, costs, and other factors necessary for implementation; and
 - Develop capacity-building framework to deepen internal and external understanding related to the truth and reconciliation process.
 3. Recommending an approach for establishing a truth & reconciliation commission, including:
 - Identify key participants including government, community-based, staff, and elected policymakers;
 - Recommend success measures and metrics by which the effort will be evaluated; and
 - Propose a timeline by which the truth & reconciliation commission will be seated and launched.
 4. Providing a report back on the proposed truth and reconciliation process and commission framework at the first Policy & Government Oversight Committee meeting in January 2021.