

TO: Mayor Salinas and Members of the Hayward City Council

FROM: Deborah Tolefree-Harris, former resident and descendant of a Russell City homeowner

Good evening, Mayor Salinas and Hayward City Council Members. I'm Deborah Tolefree-Harris and lived at 25014 Adams Street in Russell City with my parents (Climmie and Octavia Tolefree), 5 brothers and 1 sister all my life until I married in 1962.

I applaud the City of Hayward for taking the lead in this reparation process, for apologizing for the atrocities inflicted on the Russell City community and for providing a budget for research by the Ceres Research Group as well as Dr. Elizabeth Brown and Dr. George Barganier of San Francisco State University. As a member of the Russell City Steering Committee Leadership Group, I support the research that has been done to formulate the proposed recommendations being presented today for your consideration.

I had a wonderful childhood, have many cherished and fond memories. I never considered Russell City to be a blight ghetto, in fact, I didn't know any better. The first time I was introduced or heard the word "ghetto" was in my 9th grade Social Studies class at Hayward High when my teacher referred to Russell City as such. I thought we were living our best life; I didn't realize that we were being deprived of the basic amenities provided other communities. I felt protected because everyone looked out for each other and questioned strangers, so there was no fear interacting within the community. We lived as just a big family, more or less. My parents provided the best they could. Many life lessons were taught: how to treat and respect ourselves, authority, our elders, guests and neighbors. Not all these lessons were passed down to the next generation.

I felt honored to be a part of the Steering Committee and an ambassador for the community that I grew up in and to bring to the forefront the desires and wishes of the people who lived there. Of the 13-15 committee members, only 2 members lived in Russell City. Gloria Moore and I. Gloria and I are cousins and both attended Russell City Elementary, Hayward High School and college together. Many families lived in Russell City and, as the survey shows, have different opinions which have been narrowed down to 26 recommendations. The common theme of the 26 recommendations is "Reparative Justice."

Although I appreciate the City's acknowledgment and ultimate written apology for the injustice committed, an apology is just words and does not repair the financial damage that was caused to my parents who lived without sanitation services for 20 years although they were taxed by Alameda County for services that were never brought to fruition. An apology does not repair the damage nor the insult endured by my parents being forced to move by eminent domain and given a measly amount to relocate and start their lives all over again in a new city. An apology does not make up for the financial harm and generational wealth lost. The City of Hayward and the County of Alameda owe a financial debt.

The residents who lived through the indignities of no sanitation, no sidewalks and no basic municipal infrastructure, are now 70-80+ years old. For those who lived through and survived these indignities reparations means monetary recompense, first to the living survivors and then to the descendants of those who have passed on.

Introduction to Addendums Submitted by Carolyn Johnson

This addendum addresses critical gaps and limitations identified in Reclaiming Russell City: A Comprehensive Approach to Reparative Justice and Community Renewal (Kerby Lynch, Ph.D. and Aisha Canfield, MPP). While the document provides valuable insights, this addendum addresses crucial issues, in my opinion, undermining its validity, reliability, and comprehensiveness. Specifically, the addendum critiques:

- **Omission of crucial issues:** This document critically assesses the limited focus on the essential issue of land restitution as a core consideration.
- **Methodological shortcomings:** Concerns surrounding data analysis highlight the potential for biased or incomplete results and raise concerns about the generalizability of findings.

The addendum aims to center the crucial issue of land restitution and ensure the voices of property and business owners are elevated and strives for an approach that centers the impact of the “land grab” by the government and its long-term effect on the wealth and wellbeing of Russell City Residents and their descendants. This Addendum also summarizes critical feedback provided to the authors that did not receive a response and thus is inserted here for the record. I believe this Addendum ultimately strengthens the foundation of the recommendations and presents a more robust and just framework for the Russell City community, ensuring that all voices are heard and critical concerns are adequately addressed.

Taking private property and businesses in Russell City had devastating consequences for the property and business owners and their descendants. The short-term hardships of displacement and economic loss were compounded by long-term effects that continue to impact them and their descendants today.

There are numerous negative Impacts from the forced sale or loss of property and businesses in Russell City, including but not limited to:

- Displacement and Disruption: Residents, often with deep community ties, were forced to relocate, leading to the break-up of established social networks.
- Loss of Homes and Businesses: Destruction of homes and businesses, causing immediate economic hardship and loss of wealth.
- Limited Relocation Options: Affordable housing options were scarce, forcing displaced residents to move to less desirable areas with lower-quality housing and amenities.
- Psychological Trauma: Witnessing the forced sale and destruction of their homes and neighborhoods caused significant emotional distress for residents.
- Generational Poverty: Displacement disrupted wealth accumulation and access to economic opportunities, creating a cycle of poverty that continues to impact descendants.

- Loss of Historical and Cultural Significance: The physical destruction of Russell City nearly erased and obscured its history and cultural heritage.

I. Return The Land

Several examples of governments returning land or property to individuals, often due to historical injustices or policy changes. Here are a few examples:

1. Land Returned to Indigenous Peoples:

- *Canada*: In Canada, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (2007) included provisions for the return of some traditional lands to Indigenous communities.
- *Australia*: The Australian government has various policies and programs for returning land to Indigenous Australians, though the process is ongoing and complex.
- *United States*: In the United States, various federal and state laws and programs exist for returning land to Native American tribes, often based on historical treaties or land claims.

2. Property Returned after Political Persecution:

- *Germany*: After reunification, the German government enacted policies for restitution of property confiscated from individuals during the Nazi regime.
- *Chile*: Following the Pinochet dictatorship, the Chilean government implemented programs to return property confiscated from political dissidents.
- *South Africa*: The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) played a role in facilitating the return of property seized during the apartheid era.

3. Property Returned due to Policy Changes:

- *Hong Kong*: After the end of British rule in Hong Kong, the Chinese government returned some previously confiscated land to individuals.
- *Vietnam*: Following the Doi Moi reforms, the Vietnamese government returned some property previously collectivized under communist rule.

II. Provide Alternative Land

Given the sale of the Russell City land to a developer who built an industrial center, navigating a return of the original land would be very complex. It could be challenging to implement. While offering alternative land or property is not a universally adopted practice, there have been instances where governments have

offered such alternatives in situations involving eminent domain when the original property was no longer available:

- **United States:**
 - During the Yerba Buena Gardens development project in San Francisco, California, displaced residents were offered relocation assistance, including the option to choose from several replacement housing units.
 - In **New York City**, the government offered displaced businesses alternative locations within the redevelopment area as part of the Fulton Center project.

The City of Hayward **owns** the **Hayward Executive Airport (HWD)** and the former **Skywest Golf Course**.

- Hayward Executive Airport: The city owns and operates the airport, which serves general aviation and businesses in the area. Hayward Executive Airport: <https://www.hayward-ca.gov/airport/airport.php>.
- Former Skywest Golf Course: The city closed the Skywest Golf Course in September 2020 and is redeveloping the land. They are seeking input from the community on the future use of the 126-acre site (note Russell City was approximately 1,000 acres). Skywest Property Reuse Project: <https://www.hayward-ca.gov/airport/doing-business-with-us/projects>.

Here are some categories and examples of additional properties the city owns based on publicly available information:

Public Facilities:

- Parks and recreation facilities include parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and community centers.
- Libraries and public buildings.
- Fire stations and police stations.
- Schools (though most K-12 schools in California are operated by local school districts, not the city government).

Infrastructure:

- Streets, roads, and sidewalks.
- Drainage systems.
- Public utilities, such as water and sewer systems, in some cases.

Land and Buildings:

- Undeveloped land that the city may be planning for future use.

- Parking lots and garages.
- Affordable housing units or other types of housing developments owned and managed by the city.
- Commercial buildings or office space that the city leases out to generate revenue.

It's important to note that this is not an exhaustive list, and the specific properties owned by the City of Hayward can change over time. **I request that the City provide a comprehensive list to the Steering Committee.**

Summary of Prior Comments & Feedback:

1. **Completeness:** While the report summarizes survey results, consider including crucial historical events from Russell City's past for better context.
2. **Clarity and Organization:** The report needs improved clarity in sections outside the survey results and harm summary. Headers seem adequate but could be further refined.
3. **Respect and Cultural Sensitivity:** Ensure the report maintains a respectful and culturally sensitive tone.
4. **Source Citations:** Include proper citations and references to support all factual statements.
5. **Community Representation:** Upon basic review of the raw data, I have concerns about the validity and reliability of any conclusions made in the report based on the data.
6. **Visuals:** Consider incorporating relevant visuals like graphs or charts to enhance readability.
7. **Interdisciplinary Expertise:** Clarify the report's purpose: Is it solely summarizing survey results, or are broader perspectives needed from disciplines like sociology? If so, specific experts or organizations should be consulted.
8. **Policy Implications:** While the survey is valuable, basing future policies solely on a limited pool of respondents requires caution. Upon basic review of the raw data, I have concerns about the validity and reliability of any conclusions made in the report based on the data. Clarify if the report aims to guide future policies.
9. **Reflecting Community Needs:** Upon basic review of the raw data, I have concerns about the validity and reliability of any conclusions made in the report based on the data. Acknowledge the survey as just one element of the more extensive recommendation process.
10. **Eligibility Criteria:** As these aren't directly related to the survey, reconsider including proposed eligibility criteria in this report. Clarify the purpose of mentioning them here.

Additional Notes:

- Clarity regarding the report's purpose is needed for more precise communication within the committee. Establish a well-defined audience and objective to avoid confusion.
- Consider removing the following from the General section:
 - "In doing so, it aims to be a significant milestone..."
 - "ComprehensiveHarmReport" (remove "Comprehensive")
 - Replace "future actions and advocacy and seeks to" with "Russell City Steering Committee in their quest..."
 - Replace "for" with "one tool to"

- Remove "Recognizing the plan..." and "presenting an ambitious..." sentences.
- Introduction:
 - Add "for Consideration by the Russell City Steering Committee."
 - Replace "until" with "in"
 - Replace the introductory paragraph with a brief statement introducing the report's purpose and audience: "This report presents the findings of a harm assessment conducted by Ceres [Your Company Name] on behalf of the Russell City Steering Committee. It aims to inform the committee's development of recommendations to the Hayward City Council regarding..."
- Data and Methodology:
 - Add questions regarding data collection methods and sources of information beyond the survey.
- Specific comments: Consider retaining specific comments that raise essential points but rephrase them objectively for constructive feedback.

By addressing these points, the authors can create a more precise, informative, well-rounded report that serves its intended purpose effectively.

Introduction to Addendums Submitted by Marian Johnson

In looking forward and in order to seamlessly and intentionally create pathways for transitions to and incorporation of future and current California State initiatives, policies and laws, California State assembly and senate bills for the greater improvement throughout the entire State of California, its Counties, Cities, and Unincorporated areas – may I humbly request for inclusion as provided the following Addendums to the Russell City Reparative Justice Steering Committee's Executive Summary as presented by its Chair: Aisha Knowles, Vice Chair Elizabeth Sanchez and, collectively, its Russell City Reparative Justice Project Steering Committee members as my personal addendum package submission for inclusion along with the inclusion of the 2023 Russell City Survey Results Final Report as summarized, written and submitted by the Ceres Policy Research Group Team.

Allowing the base line and foundation for the types of reparative justice actions to include yet not be limited to the following performative actions with the express intent being words and actions which resonate at the same level of importance providing no exclusions/justifications wherein the two (word and action) can be used one without the other for the action types listed as follows:

Restitution;

Compensation;

Rehabilitation;

Satisfaction; and

Guarantees of Non-Repetition.

Addendum – MEJ -1 Restitution - (Business Owner Families)

2024 Proposed Bill - Referencing Assembly Bill - AB XXX (Gipson) – Eliminate barriers to licensure for people with criminal records. - Expansion of *AB 2138* to prioritize African American applicants seeking occupational licenses, especially those who are descendants.

The intent of this addendum submission is to highlight how the Russell City community who for the most part were only able to relocate themselves into communities which were in Redlined communities, spaces which were inherently over policed where business owners were not able to successfully re-establish their businesses in those spaces. Allegedly (until verified with an audit professionally executed) property taxes collected from homes located in those redlined communities quite possible were redirected for use in other un-redlined communities. Residents in those redlined communities were exposed to more instances where former residents of the Russell City community being arrested, incarcerated (at Santa Rita Jail) and creating for most their first criminal record thus garnering profits for Alameda County and its affiliated and associated profit sharing (and/or other forms of financial and/or tax breaks/incentives) cities.

For those business owner residents and their descendants of the Russell City community whose families owned and operated businesses in Russell City to be provided the opportunity to and funding/compensation to restore/repair/repay for the loss of finances generating income by way of their family business to create businesses to restart and/or recreate their pathways to growing/recreating their generational wealth.

For the City of Hayward to work with transparency and in solidarity with the (Former) Residents and their Descendants in support of moving this healing conversation for Russell City Resident Business Owner Families and put action to word to prioritize this item and to include other involved participants in order to recommend avenues which will allow for overall healing for connected communities.

Addendum – MEJ - 2 Restitution - (Property Owner Families)

2024 Proposed Bill - Referencing Senate Bill - SB XXX (Bradford) – Property takings: Restore property taken during race-based uses of eminent domain to its original owners or provide another effective remedy where appropriate, such as restitution or compensation.

The intent of this addendum submission is to highlight how this Russell City Community, City of Hayward, neighbouring Cities, included in and including Alameda County were and in most cases are still affected by the removal of the residents of Russell City. This community was not provided with relocation assistance, access to City of Hayward or Alameda County sanctioned and approved resources of financial, health related resources. Further to Address the impact to displaced Russell City resident which created few to no spaces and homes where these residents could secure new homes in which to live due the practice wherein residential and housing developments both in Hayward and other Alameda County cities which had incorporated the use of restrictive covenants and Home Owner Associations which incorporated restrictive covenant language to prevent specific groups of people from moving into their communities. The Russell City community, who for the most part, were only able to relocate themselves into communities which were in Redlined communities, spaces which were inherently over policed and allegedly (until verified with an audit professionally executed) were the property taxes collected from homes located in those redlined communities quite possible were redirected for use in other Alameda County un-redlined communities outside of the redlined spaces.

For those property owner residents and their descendants of the Russell City community whose families owned property to be provided the opportunity, government owned land, and funding/compensation to own, rebuild and/or recreate their pathways to growing/recreating their generational wealth. Find ways to create tax breaks and/or tax based incentives to compensate – restore/repair/repay for the loss of the use of the property and restore/repair/repay for the loss of income generational wealth due to the loss of the property to which property owners lost access to home equity for future growth of income and financing for higher education for themselves and their descendants.

For the City of Hayward to work with transparency and in solidarity with the (Former) Residents and their Descendants in support of moving this healing conversation for Russell City Resident Property Owner Families and put action to word to prioritize this item and to include other involved participants in order to recommend avenues which will allow for overall healing for connected communities.

Addendum – MEJ - 2
Restitution - (Property Owner Families)
(Continued)

Reference - Excerpt Testimony from Bernie Patterson on January 8, 1963
before the
Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, Sitting as the Redevelopment Agency
Public Hearings on the Russell City Redevelopment Project

13 MR. PATTERSON: Well, we know, too, that property appraised or
14 divided will be just about what it was down in Oakland, and we have
15 people out there, even myself, as not able to get behind the in-
16 debtedness at this hour of the day, and all we say, we better --
17 would that leave us head and heels over in debt, or owing?

18 MR. HERRON: I can't answer that until we know what the value
19 of the property is. Each parcel will be appraised independently.

20 MR. PATTERSON: Well, you know yourself, when you see property
21 and you - I think you got the ability to know what property is
22 selling for all over the United States of America. It is not - you
23 know, you can't get it for a song and a dance. If you could give
24 me some kind of an idea. My lots, I have two lots, 130 back and
25 50 foot front, what do you think? Just an estimation of what a lot
26 would cost if you was going to go out there and buy it and build

Addendum – MEJ - 2
Restitution - (Property Owner Families)
(Continued)

Reference - Excerpt Testimony from MRS. J. M. HENRY on January 8, 1963
before the
Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, Sitting as the Redevelopment Agency
Public Hearings on the Russell City Redevelopment Project

9
10 MRS. J. M. HENRY
11 ✓ sworn as a witness by the Clerk,
12 testified as follows:
13 THE CLERK: Your name and address?
14 MRS. HENRY: I'm Mrs. J. M. Henry, 2254 West Winton Avenue.
15 What I want to say, I own the property at 2254 West Winton
16 Avenue. We want to fix the house. I had a little flood in the
17 small part, the garage part of the house. I goes up to this
18 Redevelopment Agency, they gave me - they told me to go and lift
19 this house, which I couldn't do that. I goes back to them. They
20 come out, "Well, you fix this house." All right. I go and put out
21 my money to fix this house, got it up - here they send some man
22 down, Mr. Harper - that's right, Mr. A. L. Harper - and stick this
23 on it (exhibiting document). This house was too good, they said -
24 this was too good for temporarily. Well, I told them I wasn't
25 going to live in water when I can do better, and they - this is wha
26 they stick on my house, to stop the - the house is halfway up now,
and if they would let people in Russell City before, if they had of

Addendum – MEJ - 3
Rehabilitation - (Russell City Community Residents and Descendants)

2024 Proposed Bill - Referencing Assembly Bill - AB XXX (McCarty) – Career Education Financial Aid for redlined communities

2024 Proposed Bill - Referencing Assembly Bill - AB 1929 (McKinnor - Expand access to career technical education by creating a competitive grant program to increase enrollment of descendants in STEM-related CTE programs at the high school and college levels.

For City of Hayward along with Russell City family representatives to review and implement City of Hayward plans and policies to incorporate State senate and assembly bills, policies and/or laws for use as/with the Russell City Community Reparative Justice action items by working with Alameda County and State of California representatives to make available the opportunity for Russell City residents and descendant to have full access to Career and Education funding opportunities.

For the City of Hayward to work with transparency and in solidarity with the (Former) Residents and their Descendants in support of moving this healing conversation for Russell City Resident Community Residents and Descendants putting action to word to prioritize this item and to include other involved participants in order to recommend avenues which will allow for overall healing for connected communities.

Addendum – MEJ - 4

Guarantee of Non-Repetition - (Russell City Community Residents and Descendants)

Partnership, Engagement and Cooperation

For the city of hayward to partner with the Russell city community Residents and Descendants to proceed with developing a presentation for the Alameda County Reparation Board to confirm that eminent domain was used to take land on the City (Alameda County Cities) - County level.

To confirm the role the City of Hayward played in telling the truth of this story, as did Alameda County in its apology to the residents of Russell City, that several properties in Russell City did receive market rate for their properties that were hundreds of thousand dollars being substantially more than residential property owners and other business owners properties, which were taken by the county using eminent domain and the other residents (resident non-property owners) were not provided financing or other resources to move out of Russell City. There were no relocation financial compensation and/or resources provided to the Russell City Resident Community.

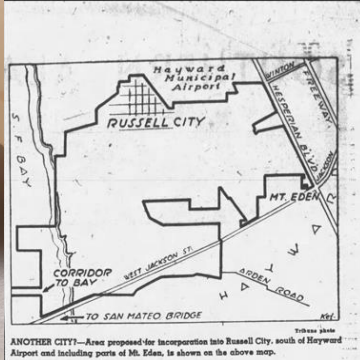
To work in solidarity and support of moving this healing conversation to include other involved participants in order to recommend avenues which will allow for overall healing for connected communities. For the City of Hayward to work with transparency and in solidarity with the (Former) Residents and their Descendants in support of moving this healing conversation for Russell City Resident and Descendants by putting their actions to word to prioritize items mentioned in afore mentioned Addendum's **MEJ - 1, MEJ – 2, MEJ – 3, and MEJ - 4** and to include other involved participants in order to recommend avenues which will allow for overall healing for Russell City and other connected communities in order to be an excellent example of working in good faith, being absolutely transparent and committed to working to provide justice and make level everyone's opportunity to live healthy, whole and fair lives.

Addendum

I am Michael D Johnson on the Steering Committee on the Reparative Justice Project. I do not agree with there only being 22 recommendations of the items submitted and not the full 26 that were turned in by our committee. One thing that I would like to add is a loss of future income from my family and others which were conducting business in Russell city as mine was conducting business out of Ideal Cafe in Russell City. With my grandparents having to move they have lost income from that unscheduled and uncompensated move. And from that the loss of income from that to today needs to be paid to our family and that amount added to the loss of personal property and the stress of having to move to another city without any compensation of equivalent to the loss of real estate and business income of any kind. Our family has not and will never be the same because of having to pick up and move after being well-established in the City of Russell City as if they were criminals.

Michael D. Johnson

RCRJP Steering Committee member



Russell City Plan Fought By Hayward

HAYWARD, Aug. 7—Hayward officials said today that a move to incorporate Russell City and Mt. Eden as a new city apparently has killed for this year Hayward's hopes for a multi-million dollar industry park.

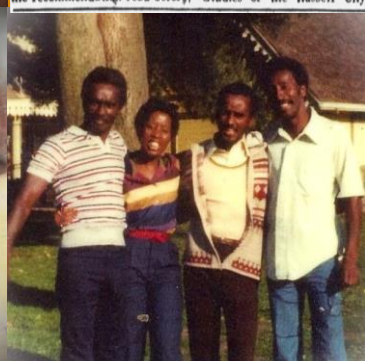


Grand Jury Urges Denial Of Russell City Petition

The Alameda County Grand Jury has recommended that the petition of residents of Russell City requesting zoning of the area for single family residential use be denied by the county planning commission.

A Russell City delegation that filled half of the chambers of the Board of Supervisors heard the recommendation read before the planning commission by W. A. Benner, chairman of the grand jury committee investigating the Russell City situation.

The petition of the Russell City residents was not before the commission at the time, however, and no action was taken by the planning commission until a public hearing date is set. Studies of the Russell City



Tribune Editorial Page
HOME OWNED, CONTROLLED, EDITED

The Russell City Offer

The initial response to Alameda County's offer to sell Russell City redevelopment project land was a disappointing one.

The county spent \$1.4 million in taxpayers' money to acquire the 200-plus acres of property and another \$383,000 in administrative and land clearance costs. Yet when bids were opened on the proposed sale of the land there was only one offer to buy—for \$1.6 million. Two other firms indicated an interest but did not put cash on the line.

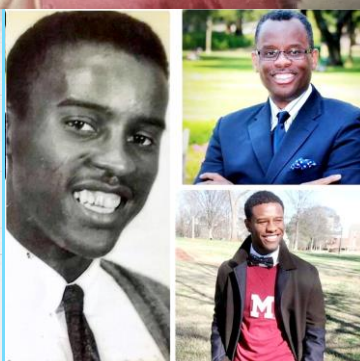
County supervisors say they'd like to negotiate the price upwards—as well they might.

It would seem that some extravagant miscalculations were made.

If the county now were obliged to sell the reclaimed Russell City land at the price offered, Alameda County taxpayers would have to absorb a net loss of more than \$1 million.

County supervisors learned some time ago—as such as professional land appraisals were made—that their initial estimates of the cost of acquiring Russell City land were much too low.

Higher than anticipated prices subsequently were paid for the land, both in purchases negotiated by county redevelopment agency representatives and in court condemnation proceedings.



South County Projects

Russell City, Santa Rita Will Have Great Impact

By MICHAEL V. JOHNSON

The upcoming countywide County projects that were voted up in 2012 will have major impacts in South County.

They are the sale of the Russell City redevelopment project and the purchase of the Santa Rita land.

The two are linked because the sale of the Russell City property to Clark, Clark & Fuchs, a San Jose-based firm of industrial developers, is a condition of the county's sale of the Santa Rita land.

The county is expected to receive \$10 million for the sale of the Santa Rita land, which will be used to acquire the 200-plus acres of government property at Santa Rita.

South County will have the benefit of \$10 million in new jobs and revenue from the sale of the Santa Rita land.

The county is expected to receive \$10 million for the sale of the Santa Rita land, which will be used to acquire the 200-plus acres of government property at Santa Rita.

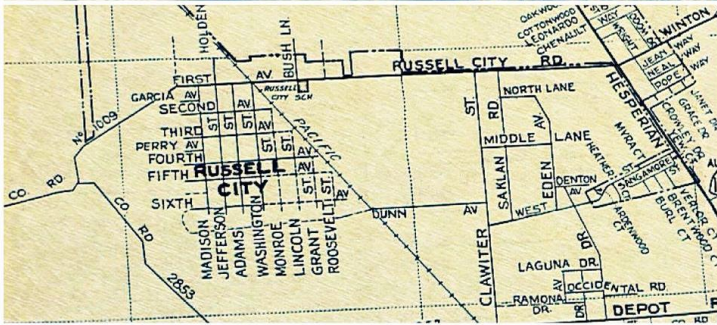
RUSSELL CITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER ADDENDUM

Submitted in Response to the Ceres Policy Research Report Entitled

“RECLAIMING RUSSELL CITY: A Comprehensive Approach to Reparative Justice and Community Renewal”

Submitted by Michael V. Johnson
Member & Parliamentarian, Steering Committee
Russell City Reparative Justice Project
March 4, 2024



**ACTIONS ALWAYS
PROVE WHY
WORDS
MEAN NOTHING.**



Addendum Contents

Meet the Submitters

Definition of Reparative Justice

Project SBAR / Key Takeaways

Addendum Recommendations

Appendices

1. Project Scope & Committee Mandate
2. COH Stoplight Presentation: Recommendation Analysis
3. Role of Consultant: Ceres Policy Research, LLC (CPR)
4. Prioritization of CPR Proposed Recommendations
5. Recommendation Details – Repay The Debt

MEET THE ADDENDUM SUBMITTERS

Michael V. Johnson, is the son of Jessie Mae Patterson and Clarence Hardy Johnson.

- **His father's parents** were Jessie Mae & Lee Henry.
- **His mother's grand-parents** were Bernice "Dyke" & Cassie Patterson.
- **Both families were homeowners & landowners in Russell City.**
 - *Bernice Patterson's and Jessie Mae Henry's original testimonies are recorded in the Public Hearing on the Russell City Redevelopment Project before the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County, Sitting as the Redevelopment Agency Hearings which took place on January 8th, 15th and 22nd in 1963 (pages 70 and 195).*
- Russell City is where his Mom & Dad first met and were later married.
- He, along with his sister Marian, his parents, grand-parents and great grand-parents were all forced to relocate from Russell City to Oakland, CA, Tracy CA, and Oklahoma City, OK by 1964.

Service is the price you pay for the space you occupy! It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the Steering Committee of the Russell City Reparative Justice Project to speak truth to power on behalf of my family and the Russell City community at-large.



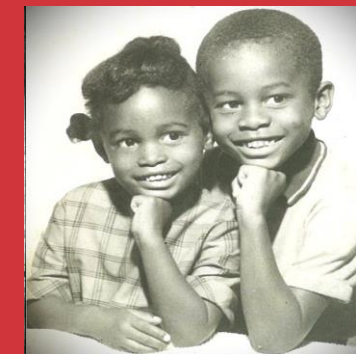
Jessie Mae & Lee Henry



Cassie & Bernice Patterson



Jessie Mae & Clarence Johnson



Marian & Michael Johnson

THE UNITED NATIONS OUTLINES FIVE CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET FOR FULL REPARATIONS:

1. CESSATION, ASSURANCES AND GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION:

Under international law, a state responsible for wrongfully injuring a people "is under an obligation to a) "cease the act if it is continuing, and, b) offer appropriate assurances and guarantees of non-repetition..."

2. RESTITUTION AND REPATRIATION:

Restitution means to "re-establish the situation which existed before the wrongful act was committed." Changes traced to the wrongful act are reversed through restoration of freedom, recognition of humanity, identity, culture, repatriation, livelihood, citizenship, legal standing, and wealth to the extent they can be, and if they cannot, restitution is completed by compensation.

REPARATIONS NOW

3. COMPENSATION:

The injuring state, institution or individual is obligated to compensate for the damage, if damage is not made good by restitution. Compensation is required for "any financially accessible damage suffered..." to the extent "appropriate and proportional to the gravity of the violation and circumstances."

4. SATISFACTION:

Satisfaction is part of full reparations under international law for moral damage, such as "emotional injury, mental suffering, and injury to reputation." In some instances where cessation, restitution, and compensation do not bring full repair, satisfaction is also needed. Apology falls under the reparative category of satisfaction.

5. REHABILITATION:

Rehabilitation shall be provided to include legal, medical, psychological, and other care and services.

Definition of Reparative Justice

The Steering Committee Members for the Russell City Reparative Justice Project, agreed that reparative justice for the former residents and descendants of the Russell City community includes:

- Addressing the harm inflicted
- Holding everyone who caused the harm accountable
- Placing all options for reparations and restitution on the table for consideration
- Correcting the historical record

In the final analysis, for the former residents and descendants of the Russell City Community, Reparative Justice means:

**REPAIRING THE HARM.
RESTORING THE LAND.
REPAYING THE DEBT.**

SITUATION

- On November 16, 2021, the City of Hayward’s (COH) City Council issued an apology that served as an acknowledgment of a painful history of harms inflicted on the former residents and descendants of Russell City
- The COH directed its apology to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and LatinX community members and that,
- The adverse consequences of Hayward’s history of redlining continues to impact BIPOC and Latinx community members of Hayward to this day,
- The COH committed to taking actionable steps to address these harms.

BACKGROUND

The Russell City Reparative Justice Project (RCRJP) calls for the COH to work with former Russell City residents and descendants to “determine appropriate restitution” for its involvement in inequitable treatment and forced relocation of Russell City Community members.

The scope of the RCRJP was to include:

- Fact-finding and academic research,
- Consideration and evaluation of reparative justice models and
- Developing a consensus on proposals and recommendations for City Council consideration and potential consideration by other governing bodies for appropriate restitution and/or reparative justice responses

Key Takeaways



- The core consideration of this project, to “determine what appropriate restitution” looks like for the former Russell City residents has not been adequately addressed, if at all.
- Community outreach, engagement, involvement and feedback has been woefully inadequate to ensure support for any recommendations developed or presented for consideration.
- The recommendations presented in the CPR Report are not the product of any collaboration between the Steering Committee and CPR, but rather of the collaboration between CPR and their client the COH.
- **No consensus has been reached, nor has any endorsement been made** of the CPR report, the survey or any or the conclusions made from the survey data by CPR, **by the Steering Committee.**
- COH staff, (Asst. City Manager Regina Youngblood in particular) has gone out of their way to ensure that full transparency, between CPR, the COH and the full membership of the Steering Committee would not be realized in order to influence the outcome of the project and to shape the “recommendations” that will be ultimately presented to the City Council.

ASSESSMENT

- Ceres Policy Research (CPR) vacated their support and effectively ceased all facilitation of and communication with the Steering Committee on September 13, 2023.
- The report produced by CPR is not the “Comprehensive Approach to Reparative Justice and Community Renewal” it claims to be.
- The recommendations in the report **were not** “carefully crafted in consultation with the RCRJP Steering Committee Members“. The draft report were sent to the Asst. City Manager in October after CPR ended its relationship and support of the Steering Committee.
- A review of the raw data from the community survey reveals serious data integrity and methodological shortcomings that render any meaningful analysis unreliable.
- The Asst. City Manager (Regina Youngblood) is incapable of providing adequate staff support to the RCRJP. She has been more hindrance than help throughout the entire lifecycle of this project to date.

RECOMMENDATION

- The Steering Committee’s Position Statement, (along with the attached addendums submitted by individual members of the Steering Committee) be forwarded and shared with Alameda County Reparations Commission as called for in the Project’s scope of work.
- The Russell City Reparative Justice Project (RCRJP) moves forward under the guidance, supervision, oversight and direction of the COH’s Community Services Commission to continue the work of the Steering Committee that remains uncompleted.
- The COH renews its commitment to taking meaningful and actionable steps to address the harms that it has admitted to and apologized for.

ADDENDUM RECOMMENDATIONS

REPAIR THE HARM

Academic Scholarships, Free Tuition and Tuition Reimbursement Payments

- The Hayward City Council, would support and approve, recommendations that are similar to AB 3121, that would establish the Russell City Office of Education and Social Services which would offer free tuition to the descendants of former residents of Russell City in private K-12 education and academic scholarships to those pursuing higher education in the state.
- The Hayward City Council, would support and approve, recommendations that are similar to AB 3121, that would expand access to career technical education (which combine academic education with occupational training to prepare students for careers in current or emerging professions) for the former residents and descendants of Russell City.
- The Hayward City Council, would support and approve, tuition reimbursement payments (from 1963 forward) to former residents and descendants who pursued and completed their higher education (trade, technical school, college and graduate education).

RESTORE THE LAND

Support Legislation Returning the Land Known as Russell City to Former Residents & Descendants

- The Hayward City Council, would support and approve, legislation that is similar to SB 796, that would allow Alameda County to return land located in Russell City to former Residents and their descendants who lived and owned land, property and businesses at the time of their displacement from Russell City.
- The Hayward City Council, would support and approve, legislation that is similar to SB 796, that would authorize Alameda County to “sell, transfer, or encumber the land known as Russell City” while excluding the property from restrictions — including those that would force it to be used only for public recreation and beach purposes to former Residents and their descendants who lived and owned land, property and businesses at the time of their displacement from Russell City.
- The Hayward City Council, would support and approve, legislation that is similar to SB 796, which recognizes “that if you can inherit generational wealth, you can inherit generational debt.”

REPAY THE DEBT

Retroactive Payment of Relocation Fees to All Displaced Former Residents of Russell City

- **Consistent with Cal. Gov. Code § 7260, Displaced person** means any person who moves from real property or moves his or her personal property from real property, **as a direct result of a written notice of intent to acquire**, or the acquisition of, the real property, in whole or in part, **for a program or project undertaken by a public entity** or by any person having an agreement with, or acting on behalf of, a public entity.
- **Consistent with Cal. Gov. Code § 7262**, Whenever a program or project to be undertaken by a public entity will result in the displacement of any person, **the displaced person is entitled to payment for actual moving and related expenses**
- **Consistent with Cal. Gov. Code § 7263**, In addition to the payments required by Section 7262, the public entity, as a part of the cost of acquisition, **shall make a payment to the owner of real property, not to exceed twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500)**

Payments shall be made (**with compound interest since 1963**) directly to the former residents of Russell City or their descendants. (See Exhibit 6)



Addendum Appendix

Appendices

- 1. Project Scope & Committee Mandate**
- 2. COH Stoplight Presentation: Recommendation Analysis**
- 3. Role of Consultant: Ceres Policy Research, LLC (CPR)**
- 4. Prioritization of CPR Proposed Recommendations**
- 5. Recommendation Details – Repay The Debt**

Appendix 1: Project Scope & Steering Committee Mandate

PROJECT SCOPE

Phase 1

Discovery, fact-finding and academic research;
Formation of a governing structure for the Project team;
Identifying & contacting former residents and descendants.

Phase 2

Establish and implement governing structure;
Community-based information gathering and storytelling;
Consider & evaluate reparative justice models;
Synthesis of learning from academic and community-based
research and storytelling.

Phase 3

Develop consensus on proposals and recommendations for
City Council consideration and potential consideration by
other governing bodies for appropriate restitution and/or
reparative justice responses.

Phase 4

City Council action and potential actions by other governing
bodies to approve and implement reparative justice
recommendations.

STEERING COMMITTEE MANDATE

1

Represent the Russell City Community in
communications between the City of Hayward
and the larger Russell City Community

2

Make decisions for the Russell City Community

3

Communicate any developments and
decisions to the Russell City community

Legend



=Sure to draw litigation

= Possible litigation

=Not likely to draw litigation

APPENDIX 2

City of Hayward (COH) Recommendation Analysis “Stop Light Presentation”

Type	Description	Viability	Possible Outcome
Non-Monetary Benefits	Continued and future City support of Russell City through public arts and installations		Likely approval by Council / NSTL ¹
Monetary Benefits	First time home ownership down payment assistance		Litigation possible. Likely approval by Council only if formulated to benefit RCD ²
Monetary Benefits	Educational Scholarships		Litigation possible. Likely approval by Council only if formulated to benefit RCD ²
Non-Monetary Benefits	Support legislation allowing impacted parties to sue public agencies that abused "urban renewal" process at City, County or state level.		Communities would work independently to pursue land acquisition or monetary compensation through litigation.
Monetary Benefits	Direct monetary compensation		Litigation likely. Reparations are considered an "illegal gift" with no "public purpose."
Non-Monetary Benefits	Awarding private land		Litigation likely. Outcome of Bruce's Beach is extraordinary exception.
Non-Monetary Benefits	Awarding Public City owned land "in-kind"		Litigation likely. Public land cannot be given to individuals for personal use.

APPENDIX 3 Role of Ceres Policy Research

ceres policy research

Scope of Service (included but were not limited to the following services:

- Guide the Committee members on agenda development, facilitation, and distribution of meeting materials.
- Attend and facilitate **all** regularly scheduled and ad hoc meetings Committee Meetings as needed.
- **Guide Committee in the development of a final report** comprised of short, mid, and long-term recommendations, for presentation to the City Council. Communications
- Work with Committee Leadership and City representatives to ensure ongoing community engagement and information sharing with broader Russell City
- Meet monthly with RCRJP Leadership, City Staff leads for planning, discussion of progress and addressing issues as they arise.
- **All materials of a preliminary nature**, such as drafts of report of reparative justice recommendations, notes, historical findings, **and other data, prepared or obtained in the performance of this agreement, shall be made available, upon request**

3/4/2024

To provide expertise and competency in project management, reparations, and reparative justice strategies and guiding frameworks

1. Project Management
2. Communications
3. Documentation and Comprehensive Analysis of Harm Impact
4. Deliverables
 - a) Timeline
 - b) Reparative Justice recommendations,
 - c) Synthesized analysis of research findings and
 - d) resident interviews



Aisha Canfield, M.P.P.



Kerby Lynch, Ph.D.

To be clear, although the “Consultant [was] the Russell City Reparative Justice Project (RCCRJ) Steering Committee’s selected vendor...

The “AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES [is] BETWEEN THE CITY OF HAYWARD AND CERES POLICY RESEARCH LLC”...

The City of Hayward (COH) is Ceres Policy Research’s client... they were and are under the direction and supervision of COH Staff, and not the Steering Committee.

Effective Date and Term

- The effective date of the agreement is March 31, 2023, and it shall terminate no later than February 1, 2024

APPENDIX 4 Five Pillars of Restorative Justice

STEERING COMMITTEE PRIORITIZATION OF CERES POLICY RESEARCH PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Restitution	Property Restoration and Fair Compensation in Russell City (2.58)	Human Rights and Restoration of Property (4.33)	Restitution for Denial of Infrastructure and Community Base (4.75)	Russell City Comprehensive Housing Initiative (9.92)			
2. Compensation	Compensation and Support for Russell City's Former Residents (8.00)	Free Education for Descendants (10.83)	Establishment of a Community Fund (11.33)				
3. Rehabilitation	Educational Scholarships and Support (10.00)	Employment and Economic Opportunities (11.67)	Environmental Justice and Health Initiatives (13.42)	Preventing Recurrence and Legal Changes (13.75)	Russell City Community Center (19.58)	Infrastructure Development (21.25)	
4. Guarantee of Non-Repetition	Education and Awareness Programs (16.50)	Community Land Trusts and Housing Policies (16.58)	Community Engagement and Accountability (16.75)	Policy Changes (17.75)	Publication and Storytelling (18.00)	Revised Eminent Domain Law and Community Governance (21.08)	
5. Satisfaction	Transparency and Accountability (14.92)	Education and Documentation (16.17)	Recognition of Russell City Luminaries and Documentation of Contribution (17.67)	Revitalization of Russell City's Heritage and Community Spaces (18.33)	Russell City Cultural Heritage Preservation Commission (19.08)	Memorials and Commemoration (21.33)	Official Apologies and Acknowledgment (22.83)

Exhibit 5: Repay The Debt

Recommendation Details

Payment of Relocation Fees to all Displaced Former Residents of Russell City

Consistent with Cal. Gov. Code § 7260

- Displaced person" means both of the following: Any person who moves from real property, or who moves his or her personal property from real property, either:
 - (i) As a direct result of a written notice of intent to acquire, or the acquisition of, the real property, in whole or in part, for a program or project undertaken by a public entity or by any person having an agreement with, or acting on behalf of, a public entity.
 - (ii) As a direct result of the rehabilitation, demolition, or other displacing activity, as the public entity may prescribe under a program or project undertaken by a public entity, of real property on which the person is a residential tenant or conducts a business or farm operation, if the public entity determines that the displacement is permanent.

Consistent with Cal. Gov. Code § 7262

- (a) Whenever a program or project to be undertaken by a public entity will result in the displacement of any person, the displaced person is entitled to payment for actual moving and related expenses as the public entity determines to be reasonable and necessary, including expenses for all of the following:
 - (1) Actual and reasonable expenses in moving himself or herself, his or her family, business, or farm operation, or his or her, or his or her family's, personal property.
 - (2) Actual direct losses of tangible personal property as a result of moving or discontinuing a business or farm operation, but not to exceed an amount equal to the reasonable expenses that would have been required to relocate the property, as determined by the public entity.
 - (3) Actual and reasonable expenses in searching for a replacement business or farm, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
 - (4) Actual and reasonable expenses necessary to reestablish a displaced farm, nonprofit organization, or small business at its new site, but not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Consistent with Cal. Gov. Code § 7263

- (a) In addition to the payments required by Section 7262, the public entity, as a part of the cost of acquisition, shall make a payment to the owner of real property acquired for public use which is improved with a dwelling actually owned and occupied by the owner as a permanent or customary and usual place of abode for not less than 180 days prior to the initiation of negotiation for the acquisition of that property.
- (b) The payment, not to exceed twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500), shall be based on the following factors:
 - (1) The amount, if any, which, when added to the acquisition cost of the dwelling acquired by the public entity equals the reasonable cost of a comparable replacement dwelling.
 - (2) The amount, if any, which will compensate the displaced owner for any increased interest costs which the owner is required to pay for financing the acquisition of a comparable replacement dwelling.



Velda Goe Addendum Statement Regarding the Recommendations

1 message

Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 8:36 AM

•**Reclaim the land:**

to its displaced Property Owners, Businesses and Community Organizations or their Descendants, in the case of death of the formerly named; or the value thereof as of the date that the property or the fair market value of the property is to be transferred to the formerly named or Descendant.

•Partial funding is to be derived from tax and fee monies generated and collected from the current occupants of illicitly obtained land from the former Russell City Residents.

•**Establish a mutually agreed upon eligibility protocol:**

for recompense and compensation schedules for Russell City Property and Business Owners, Community Organizations, Renters and their Descendants; to be determined by the RCRJP Steering Committee; the RC Community-at-Large and the appropriate COH Governance bodies.

•**Establish a Tax Rebate:**

in perpetuity from displaced Property Owners, Businesses and Community Organizations and/or their Descendants, to be determined by an agreed upon formula equating what was lost during the RC displacement

•**Re-establish the town of Russell City:**

in whole or in part as a Community; to be occupied by displaced Russell City Residents and/or their Descendants, to the degree possible and as they desire; to equate their originally owned real estate or establishment in Russell City.

•**Support a self-governing, non-profit body of Russell City Residents and Descendants:**

to establish and ensure the revival and continual Russell City township and Community.

•**Establish a Russell City Community Center (RCCC):** within the boundaries of Russell City - wholly owned and debt-free by the Resident-led non-profit to be formed to manage and maintain it via a Community fund to be earmarked for that purpose; in perpetuity.

The RCCC is to be a Multi-purpose venue in good repair to have a minimum occupancy and parking for 500 persons with amenities to include:

• Administrative Offices

• RCCC Theater with the following amenities:

Box Office

Stage

Dance Floor
AV capabilities
Dressing Areas
Bathrooms
a Bar and
adjunct Commissary.

These amenities will have the intent to create an on-going stream of income to continually bolster the RCCC Fund and to also be available for lease by the Hayward Community at large for that purpose.

- (3) Conference/Multi-Purpose Rooms for use as: training centers, conferences and Community and Non-profit rental spaces
- Computer/Tech Center for training and use with a large screen Projection Room,10 CPU Stations with printers, scanners and the current technology for transferring, creating and modifying data
- RCCC Child-care Center
- RC Healthcare Clinic - with a primary focus on the identification and treatment of physical and mental maladies that were imparted by the physically and psychologically toxic environments former RC Residents were exposed to.

•**Redraft the local legal guidelines of when and how eminent domain can be used in Hayward:**
and establish a diverse, term, Community Board to be part of the management plan to prevent a re-occurrence of the Russell City Travesty and provide a well defined scenario of its allowed uses, rationale for invoking it by consensus of governing bodies, public hearings and an objective 3rd party voted in for a 2 year term.