

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER_____

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING TO BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE
OF COLOR (BIPOC) ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HAYWARD FOR ITS
IMPLICIT AND EXPLICIT ROLE IN PERPETUATING HISTORICAL
INSTITUTIONAL RACISM IN THE CITY OF HAYWARD

WHEREAS, the City of Hayward, along with other jurisdictions and the real estate and banking industries historically participated in the discriminatory practice of redlining, which systematically prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) from owning property in our city; and

WHEREAS, the area known as Russell City was home to a large and thriving BIPOC and Latinx population and a vibrant music scene and, following annexation into the City of Hayward, all residents were evicted and burned out of their homes and communities without appropriate compensation in 1966; and

WHEREAS, current Hayward demographics reflect that BIPOC and Latinx residents are disproportionately renters, indicating that the adverse consequences of Hayward's history of redlining continues to impact BIPOC of Hayward to this day, including structural, financial, physical, medical, and emotional harm; and

WHEREAS, the current educational status of BIPOC students reflect the negative impact on the generations that followed the displacement of the residents of the area known as Russell City; and

WHEREAS, home and business ownership has been shown to facilitate intergenerational wealth and housing stability is linked to physical and mental health and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve equity and basic fairness, governments and municipalities must conduct a reassessment and genuine evaluation of the power structures currently in place, and make efforts to enact policies to shift power and

ownership to people who have been historically excluded from equal participation in education, commerce and governance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hayward has begun to understand and dismantle systemic racism through its hiring and recruitment practices for jobs and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hayward has made a firm commitment to being an Inclusive, Equitable, and Compassionate Community for BIPOC; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hayward officially recognizes Juneteenth as a holiday within the City of Hayward; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hayward is making efforts to re-imagine public safety, and through its involvement in the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) has developed a Racial Equity Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, there is more work to be done.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Staff apologize to current and previous residents et al. for the City's historical role in the impacts noted above and commit to taking actionable steps to address these harms, including but not limited to the commitments identified in the associated Action Plan.