

**TOWNSHIP OF LIVINGSTON
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF LIVINGSTON SUPPORTING A711/S322 ESTABLISHING THE
“NEW JERSEY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE”**

WHEREAS, from 1619 to 1865, approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants, under a practice that was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned, were enslaved in the United States and the colonies that became the United States;

WHEREAS, the system of slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral, shameful, and inhumane deprivation of the life, liberty, humanity, citizenship, and cultural heritage of Africans and also denied them, among other things, the fruits of their own labor upon which this country, and its economy, was built; and

WHEREAS, although New Jersey outlawed the importation of enslaved Africans in 1786 and enacted a law in 1804 to abolish slavery gradually, the State Legislature passes “Peace Resolutions” in 1863 denying President Lincoln’s power to emancipate slaves and later voted against the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the full effects of the institution and legacy of slavery on Black people and communities in New Jersey have not been sufficiently examined, nor have there been remedies for past injustice and present harm, or sufficient efforts at transformation. As a result of historic and continued systematic racial discrimination, Black people in New Jersey confront some of the worst racial disparities in America; and

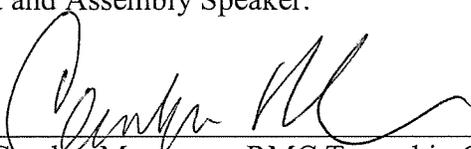
WHEREAS, it shall be the duty of the “New Jersey Reparations Task Force” to study and develop reparations proposals for Black people in this State. In performing this duty, the commission shall: identify, compile, and synthesize the relevant corpus of evidentiary documentation of the institution of slavery that existed within the United States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 through 1865. The task force’s documentation and examination shall include the facts related to: (a) the capture and procurement of Africans; (b) the transport of Africans to the United States and the colonies that became the United States for the purpose of enslavement, including their treatment during transport; (c) the sale and acquisition of Africans as chattel property in interstate and intrastate commerce; (d) the treatment of African slaves in the colonies and the United States, including the deprivation of their freedom, exploitation of their labor, and destruction of their culture, language, religion, and families; (e) the extensive denial of humanity, sexual abuse, and chattelization of persons; (f) the role of the federal and state governments of the United States in supporting the institution of slavery in constitutional and statutory provisions, including the extent to which the governments prevented, opposed, or restricted efforts of formerly enslaved Africans and their descendants to repatriate to their homeland; (g) the federal and state laws that discriminated against formerly enslaved Africans and their descendants who were deemed United States citizens from 1868 to the present; (h) other forms of systematic racial discrimination in the public and private sectors against enslaved African people and their descendants who were deemed United States citizens from 1868 to the present, including redlining, Jim Crow segregation, restrictive

covenants, mass incarceration, voter suppression, educational funding discrepancies, and predatory financial practices; and (i) the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and the matters described in this section on living African-Americans and on society in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution endorses that the task force recommend appropriate ways to educate the New Jersey public of the task force’s findings; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Township Council of the Township of Livingston, County of Essex, State of New Jersey supports A711/S322 establishing the “New Jersey Reparations Task Force” to conduct research and develop reparatory proposals and recommendations to address the generational harms caused by New Jersey’s role in America’s institution of slavery and its legacy of systematic racial discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Members of the 27th District Legislative Delegation, Senate President and Assembly Speaker.



Carolyn Mazzucco, RMC Township Clerk

Adopted: February 13, 2023