

“Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.”

-Ta Nehisi Oates



It is Time For Our City To Fund the Chicago Robust Reparations Plan (CRRP)

Chicago’s journey to reparations began in 2002 when Alderwoman Dorothy Tilman successfully introduced The Slavery Era Business / Corporate Insurance Disclosure, the first municipal slavery disclosure ordinance in America creating transparency into corporation’s ties to slavery. In 2015 Chicago became the first city to pay reparations to survivors of Chicago Police torture under the command of Cmdr. John Burge. Most recently in 2020, the Chicago City Council passed a resolution that established the Chicago Reparations Subcommittee. In a 47-2 vote, whereby the issues of genocide, plunder, and apartheid were the basis of the demand for the Subcommittee. Between 2002 and now there have been significant milestones made in addressing the demand for reparations. (See timeline below)

The Road to Reparations in Chicago ★★★★★

- 2002** Alderman Dorothy Tilman successfully introduced the Slavery Era Business / Corporate Insurance Disclosure - the first municipal slavery disclosure ordinance in America
- 2005** Reparations lawsuit - African American Slave Descendants had Litigation heard in Chicago at the he United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern District.
- 2014** Due to interventions by Chicago N’COBRA, Norfolk Southern Railroad, a corporation with atrocious ties to enslavement, was “forced into a string of concessions” in order to expand their rail yard, as reported by Chicago SunTimes writer, Fran Spellman.
- 2015** Chicago City Council agrees to a reparations package for survivors of torture by the Chicago Police Department under the command of Cmdr. John Burge.
- 2020** Chicago City Council passes a resolution establishing the Chicago Reparations Subcommittee in a 47-2 vote, whereby the issues of genocide, plunder, and apartheid were the basis of the demand for the Subcommittee.



2022 marked the first year that the City of Chicago recognized the importance of observing Juneteenth and made it an official City holiday. Presently, plans are in the works for the installation of memorial pieces commemorating the victims of Chicago's 1919 race riot. For continued efforts like these to have deep meaning and real impact we must take the next steps into realizing reparations in the City of Chicago. The idea of reparations is not new, as the timeline shows. For the last 20 years, there have been significant advancements in the fight for reparations in our city and we can't stop now, we must see this through. **REPARATIONS MUST BE ADDED TO THE CITY BUDGET!**

Put Reparations In the Budget - Fund the Chicago Robust Reparations Plan (CRRP)

During the run-off election, then-candidate Johnson agreed to push the Robust Reparations Plan once elected, it's time to hold him accountable.

The CRRP Consists Of:

1. **A Fully Funded Reparations Commission.** This Commission will commit to identifying the impact of past and ongoing racial harms and propose reparatory initiatives to redress these harms.
2. **Specialized Office For Black Chicagoans/Freedmen (Name of Office TBD).** This office will ensure equity for Black residents in city contracts, jobs, education, health, and development grants and establish a Black Procurement Technical Assistance Center (Black PTAC).
3. **A Reparative Basic Income Program.** This program aims to provide Black young adults with targeted basic income, enabling them to acquire skills and participate in the formal economy, thereby reducing reliance on the informal economy. It will include an opportunity to participate in the **City of Chicago's Lead Pipe Replacement Program** which will include a pathway to city jobs and contracts to help minimize the wealth gap.
4. **The Slavery Disclosure and Redress Ordinance.** A groundbreaking ordinance that requires businesses and institutions seeking contracts with the City to contribute to a reparations fund if they have historical ties to enslavement.

What You Can Do to Support The CRRP Getting On The City Budget:

- Attend a teach-in on the elements of the Chicago Robust Reparations Plan
- Schedule a meeting with an Alderman to educate him/her on the CRRP
 - Amplify this one-pager to your networks
 - Attend Budget and Council Meetings
- Testify at Budget and Council meetings calling for reparations to be in the budget and to support the CRRP.

You can visit <https://chicityclerkelms.chicago.gov/Meetings/> to see the meeting schedule.

By getting The Chicago Robust Reparations Plan (CRRP) on the city's budget we are one step closer to actualizing comprehensive reparations for our city's impacted residents. It would be a significant stride towards restorative justice. By actualizing reparations we are acknowledging and addressing historical and systematic discrimination which will make it possible to establish a more equitable and inclusive future for all Chicago communities.

For More Information Visit: <https://chicagoreparations.org>