

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month highlights the rich history and contributions of Black individuals in the City of Chicago and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conrad Worrill Community Reparations Commission (CWCRC) and the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) partner annually on National Reparations Awareness Day (02/25) to foster education and dialogue about reparations as a tool for justice and repair; and

**WHEREAS**, N'COBRA, established in 1987, is a national coalition dedicated to educating, mobilizing, and advocating for reparations for African descendants in the United States. In the 1990s, N'COBRA inaugurated National Reparations Awareness Day on February 25th to collectively highlight historic injustices such as the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and to unify efforts in the fight for reparations, using this day to build awareness and galvanize public support; and

**WHEREAS**, reparations have been utilized in the United States as a form of redress for historical and systemic injustices, including but not limited to:

- Japanese Americans who were forcibly relocated and incarcerated during World War II, and who received formal apologies and financial restitution under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988;
- Native American tribes, who have received settlements for land seizures and treaty violations, such as the 1946 establishment of the Indian Claims Commission;
- Jewish Holocaust survivors, who were supported by U.S. government initiatives to recover and return assets and provide restitution;
- Descendants of the Rosewood Massacre in Florida (1923), where survivors received financial reparations under state legislation passed in 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicago made history in 2015 by establishing a \$5.5 million reparations package for survivors of police torture under former CPD Commander Jon Burge, marking the first municipal reparations program in the U.S. to address racially motivated law enforcement abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Evanston, IL, became the first U.S. city to implement a reparations program for Black residents in 2021, allocating \$10 million in cannabis sales tax revenue to fund initiatives addressing historical housing discrimination, including \$25,000 grants for eligible Black residents to assist with home purchases, mortgage payments, and home repairs; and

**WHEREAS**, systemic inequities persist today in the form of disparities in health, employment, homeownership, and life expectancy, with a notable 11.4-year life expectancy gap between Black and non-Black Chicagoans; and

**WHEREAS**, National Reparations Awareness Day also aims to promote a positive narrative by showcasing the resilience, creativity, and contributions of Black Americans to society through curated exhibits, educational workshops, and storytelling sessions; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Reparations Awareness Day serves as a platform for utilizing cultural achievements, including screenings of films highlighting historical narratives and reparative themes, as well as live performances of spoken word poetry, theater, and musical tributes; and

**WHEREAS**, fine arts programs, including visual art exhibits, community murals, and interactive installations, are organized to inspire dialogue and healing while honoring reparation artistry and cultural expression; and

**WHEREAS**, educational activities, such as guided tours of historic landmarks, expert panel discussions, and community-led forums, provide opportunities to learn about the systemic harms inflicted upon Black communities and the ongoing efforts to address them; and

**WHEREAS**, National Reparations Awareness Day also serves as a platform to educate the public about the components of reparations—Compensation, Restitution, Rehabilitation, Satisfaction, and Guarantees of Non-Repetition—and to inspire collective action for justice; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor and the Members of the City Council, assembled this nineteenth day of February 2025, do hereby celebrate Black History Month, and encourage all Chicagoans to join in the celebration; and

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, assembled this nineteenth day of February 2025, do hereby recognize February 25th as National Reparations Awareness Day and commit to using this day to educate our community on Chicago's history of systemic harm, amplify the voices of those affected, and advance reparations as a path toward justice and equity for Black residents.