

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2024 Legislative Session

Resolution No.	CR-005-2024
Proposed by	Council Members Fisher and Oriadha
Introduced by	Council Members Fisher, Oriadha, Ivey, Blegay, Watson, Olson, Burroughs, Harrison, Hawkins, Dernoga and Franklin
Co-Sponsors	
Date of Introduction	February 13, 2024

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Commission on Reparations

3 For the purpose of highlighting the County Council's encouragement and strong support for the
4 creation of a commission on providing reparations to African American descendants of those
5 previously enslaved in this State; appealing to the General Assembly to create the Maryland
6 Representations Commission in remembrance of Harriet Tubman; and to have the General
7 Assembly establish the Maryland Representations Commission during the 2024 legislative
8 session.

9 WHEREAS, the American dream lies the idea that all people are created equal and gives
10 them the right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and that the government will protect
11 those rights; and

12 WHEREAS, the American dream purports that the proper amount of hard work, diligence,
13 and determination will lead to prosperity; and

14 WHEREAS, those individuals enslaved and exploited through the trans-Atlantic slave
15 trade and their descendants have been denied their unalienable rights vested to them by the
16 Declaration of Independence through anti-black housing, transportation, and business policies
17 known as Jim Crow laws, which has stunted their wealth building opportunities; and

18 WHEREAS, the average white family has roughly eight-seven percent (87%) more wealth
19 than the average African American family; and

20 WHEREAS, over sixty percent (60%) of the Prince George's County population are of

1 African American origin; and

2 WHEREAS, by joint resolution in 2007 the State of Maryland acknowledged its role in
3 the trans-Atlantic slave trade and expressed its profound regret for its role in instituting and
4 maintaining the institution of slavery (HJ 4); and

5 WHEREAS, the Maryland Reparations Commission - Establishment (Harriet Tubman
6 Community Investment Act) was introduced in the Maryland House of Delegates during the
7 2020 legislative session (HB1201), the 2021 legislative session (HB0121), the 2022 legislative
8 session (HB 0594), the 2023 legislative session (HB0409 and HB0875), but unfortunately did
9 not make it out of committee in either of the aforementioned years; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States has given reparations to other ethnic groups to redress
11 harms suffered by the groups as a whole with Native Americans receiving land and billions of
12 dollars for various benefits and programs for being forcibly exiled from their native land,
13 Japanese Americans received one and a half billion dollars (\$1,500,000,000) for being robbed
14 of their homes, jobs, rights, and incarcerated in internment camps during World War II, slave
15 owners in the District of Columbia for the manumitting of those they enslaved (District of
16 Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act); and

17 WHEREAS, African Americans are the only group that has yet to receive recompense for
18 the atrocities their ancestors suffered from the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
20 County, Maryland expresses its strong support and wholehearted endorsement of the Maryland
21 Reparations Commission - Establishment (Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act).

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's County,
23 Maryland implores the General Assembly and in particular the Legislative Black Caucus of
24 Maryland to introduce the Maryland Reparations Commission - Establishment (Harriet Tubman
25 Community Investment Act) during the 2024 legislative session.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's County,
27 Maryland calls on the General Assembly to enact the Maryland Reparations Commission -
28 Establishment (Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act) during the 2024 legislative
29 session.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maryland Reparations Commission -
31 Establishment (Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act) contain at a minimum the

1 following:

2 (a) that the Maryland Reparations Commission develop and administer a program for the
3 delivery of compensatory benefits to the descendants of individuals enslaved in the State;

4 (b) that the Maryland Reparations Commission provide that any individual whose
5 ancestors were enslaved in the State is eligible to receive benefits administered by the
6 Commission;

7 (c) that the Maryland Reparations Commission requires State agencies to assist the
8 Commission in certain manners it (i.e. Commission) deems appropriate;

9 (d) that the Maryland Reparations Commission be required to pay certain cash sums to
10 certain applicants and to reimburse certain applicants for certain tuition payments;

11 (e) that the Maryland Reparations Commission requires cooperation with banking
12 institutions and State agencies to assist any applicant determined to be a descended from
13 individuals enslaved in the State in applying for and receiving loans with low collateral and
14 interest rates;

15 (f) that the Maryland Reparations Commission requires cooperation with banking
16 institutions to assist any applicant determined to be a descended from individuals enslaved in
17 the State in applying for and receiving mortgages with low interest rates; and

18 (g) that the Governor include in the annual budget bill an appropriation in an amount
19 sufficient to carry out the requirements of the Maryland Reparations Commission.
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Adopted this 9th day of April, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council