



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
Work Session - Reparations Commission Discussion

COUNCIL WORK SESSION WILL BE ONLINE ONLY

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, the Council Meeting will be held online and is planned to be cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed to www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.

Resident participation:

Join Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83653983878?pwd=dkhReGF6dIBZeC92Yjh4TGVSQ1g3Zz09>

Webinar ID: 836 5398 3878

Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592

Password (if needed): 445467

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Wednesday, March 9, 2022
8:00 PM

Work Session Packet

Reparations Commission Discussion

Suggested Action:

Reference: Referendum Question Chart
Referendum Presentation

Agenda

- Introductions

- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

[REFERENDUM_QUESTION_CHART.pdf](#)

[Reparations Commission Presentation.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 9, 2022

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Reparations Commission Discussion

Suggested Action:

Reference: Referendum Question Chart

Referendum Presentation

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion
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Attachments:

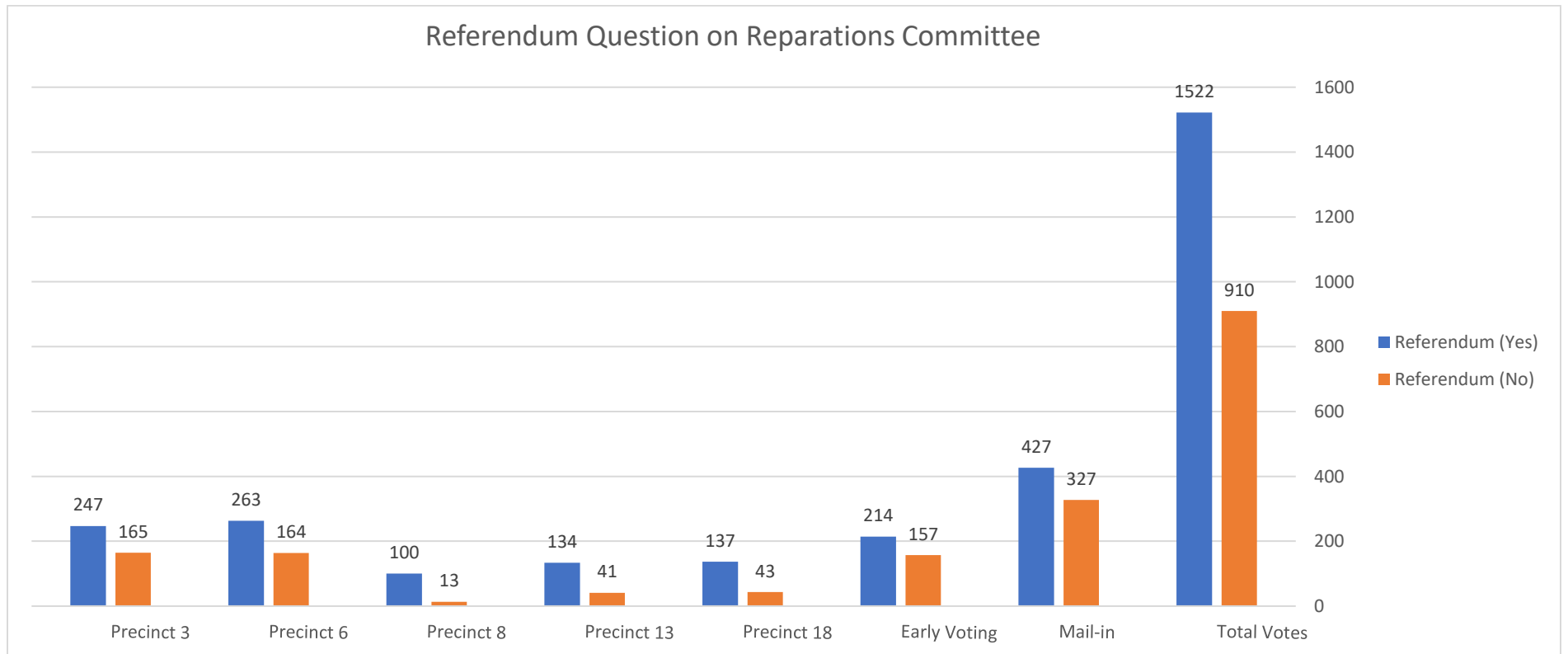
[REFERENDUM_QUESTION_CHART.pdf](#)

[Reparations Commission Presentation.pdf](#)

REFERENDUM QUESTION TO ESTABLISH A GREENBELT COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP LOCAL REPARATIONS PROPOSALS

"The City Council of Greenbelt should establish a twenty-one (21) member Commission to review, discuss and make recommendations related to local reparations for African American and Native American residents of Greenbelt."

YES to Establish Commission
NO to Establish Commission





Reparations Commission

City of Greenbelt City Council Work Session
March 9, 2022

Presentation Contents



- Overview of Referendum Question
- Examples of Reparations Efforts
 - Evanston, Illinois
 - Asheville, North Carolina
 - Carrboro, North Carolina
 - Providence, Rhode Island
- Common Themes

Referendum Question



- Referendum Language:
 - “The City Council of Greenbelt should establish a twenty-one (21) member Commission to review, discuss, and make recommendations related to local reparations for African American and Native American residents of Greenbelt.”
- Of the Greenbelt voters who answered this question 62.58% voted yes (1,522 votes)

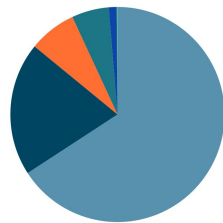
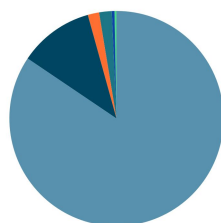
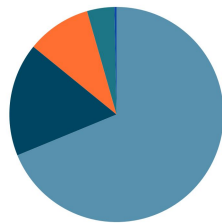
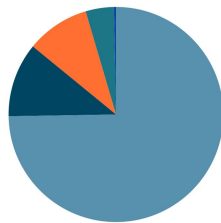
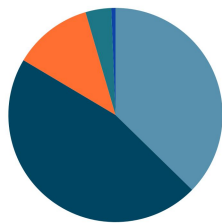
Examples of Reparations Efforts



- Staff researched on-going efforts by four (4) other jurisdictions:
 - Evanston, Illinois
 - Asheville, North Carolina
 - Carrboro, North Carolina
 - Providence, Rhode Island

Demographic Information

Greenbelt, MD	Carrboro, NC	Evanston, IL	Asheville, NC	Providence, RI
Population: 24, 921	Population: 21,295	Population: 78,110	Population: 94,589	Population: 190,934



- White
- Black
- Asian
- Two or More Races
- American Indian and Alaska Native

Formation of a Commission



Carrboro, NC	Evanston, IL	Asheville, NC	Providence, RI
Formed by a Resolution	Formed by Resolution and then the City Code was amended codifying the Reparations Commission	• City Manager was directed to establish a process to develop recommendations. • As the second step, City Manager recommended the formation of a Reparations Commission	Formed by Executive Order

Composition of the Commission

Carrboro, NC	Evanston, IL	Asheville, NC	Providence, RI
9 Voting Commission Members: • Three (3) Non-voting Members	7 Commission Members: • Three (3) of these are Councilmembers • Assistant to the City Manager is the Staff Liaison	25 Commission Members: • 15 Impacted Neighborhood Representatives • 10 Impact Focus Area Appointments	• First Phase: African American Ambassador Group (172 members) framed the process • Second Phase: 13 Member Commission Formed

Role of the Commission



Carrboro, NC	Evanston, IL	Asheville, NC	Providence, RI
• Several different annual duties including: ○ Research and develop a Carrboro Reparation proposal for Carrboro including funding consideration	• Work with residents, City staff, and experts to explore and identify programs and opportunities to be supported by the Reparations Fund	• Provide short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations to City Council	• Produce a report within 90 days to include: ○ Recommendations on reparations ○ Community engagement strategies ○ Reparation work being done elsewhere

Role of City Staff



Carrboro, NC	Evanston, IL	Asheville, NC	Providence, RI
• Present annual “at a glance” presentation • Conduct semi-annual meetings with various committees • Share recommendations and reports with Boards and Commissions for feedback	• Works with the Commission on the Restorative Housing Program	• Organized the Information Sharing and Truth Telling process • Issued a Request for Proposals for a professional project manager • Worked with project manager to craft the process to appoint members to the commission	Prepared by City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development

Role of External Organizations

Carrboro, NC	Evanston, IL	Asheville, NC	Providence, RI
	• Commissioned a report during an initial fact finding phase	• Engaged with local and national speakers during first phase • Has engaged with a project management firm	• Commissioned a report during the TRUTH phase of the process • Issued a Request for Proposals for a vendor to facilitate a public engagement process

Reparations Funding

Carrboro, NC	Evanston, IL	Asheville, NC	Providence, RI
• Commission to propose funding considerations annually	• Reparations Fund was created during the 2020 budget process • Fund is supported by the adult-use municipal cannabis tax • In its first year there was a transfer of \$200,000 from the General Fund	• Initial funding of \$2.1 million was provided by the sale of City-owned property • The City also budgeted \$25,000 for a Reparations Speaker Series	• \$100,000 for Truth-telling, Reconciliation, and Reparations Work (Grant from the Nellie Mae Foundation) • Proposed \$15 million dollars of ARPA funds to address racial equity

Conclusion: Common Themes



- Focus on fact-finding or “truth-telling” as a first step. These findings inform the focus of the commission.
- Engaging external entities for research, project management, and/or community outreach
- Staff has administrative responsibilities
- Acknowledgement of the limitations on the municipal level and commitment to pushing forward reparations at the state and federal levels