



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAN KALB,
COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY, COUNCILMEMBER
LARRY REID AND COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR**

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 3121 (WEBER) THAT WOULD ESTABLISH THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND DEVELOP REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WOULD REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO (1) IDENTIFY, COMPILE, AND SYNTHESIZE THE RELEVANT CORPUS OF EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENTATION OF THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY THAT EXISTED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND THE COLONIES; (2) RECOMMEND THE FORM OF COMPENSATION THAT SHOULD BE AWARDED, THE INSTRUMENTALITIES THROUGH WHICH IT SHOULD BE AWARDED, AND WHO SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION; AND (3) SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE;

WHEREAS, the State of California's municipal and state authorities actively supported Black enslavement in a variety of ways between 1850 and 1865; and

WHEREAS, slavery broadly impacted the conditions of African American life within California;

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement ended the nation's most explicit forms of racism but neither redressed the centuries of inequity nor ended implicit and institutional forms of racial bias; and

WHEREAS, systemic state complicity in the construction of racial harm and inequity continued into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; and

WHEREAS, implicit and institutional forms of racism, including the mass incarceration of African Americans, continues today; and

WHEREAS, Oakland, California was a critical destination for African American families migrating from the south in the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, the construction of freeways, train track, federal buildings, and redlining destroyed homes, tore neighborhoods apart, and embedded racial inequality and segregation into the city’s development; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of African American residents make up Oakland’s population has dropped from 50% in 1980 to 28% in 2010, and could be as low, or lower, than 16% in 2028 due partially to the extreme housing crisis plaguing the region; and

WHEREAS, the age of enslavement, in Oakland and more broadly the State of California and across the nation, birthed a legacy of racial harm and inequity that continues to impact the conditions of African American life in California; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (AB) 3121 (Weber) would establish a Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation proposals for African Americans, with members appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (AB) 3121 (Weber) would require the Task Force, consisting of eight appointed members, to compile and synthesize the prevailing historical record of Black slavery and its afterlives in California and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (AB) 3121 (Weber) would require the Task Force to recommend, among other things, the appropriate mechanisms for redress as it pertains to California’s role in the enslavement of African Americans and its afterlives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses AB 3121 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR,
THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the
Council of the City of Oakland, California

2959617v1