



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH CITY HALL**

1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Bruce Moe, City Manager

**MEETING:** City Council Regular Meeting, March 16, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 12 – Consideration of Recommendations from Bruce’s Beach Task Force.

**DATE:** March 12, 2021

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## **SUPPLEMENTAL ATTACHMENTS**

Bruce's Beach Task Force co-chair Mayor Pro Team Stern has submitted the attached alternative resolution of apology for consideration.

Additionally, other cities' resolutions of apology (Glendale, Spartanburg and Tampa) have been provided for reference.

- Co-Chair Stern’s Alternative Resolution of Apology
- Resolution from the City of Glendale
- Resolution from the City of Spartanburg, SC
- Resolution from the City of Tampa, FL

## Co-Chair Stern's Alternative Resolution of Apology

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH ACKNOWLEDGING AND APOLOGIZING FOR THE CITY'S ROLE IN THE RACIALLY MOTIVATED CONDEMNATION OF PROPERTIES IN THE AREA KNOWN AS BRUCE'S BEACH AND TO COMMITTING TO PROMOTING RACIAL EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

The City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach does hereby find as follows:

A. During the years from 1912 to 1927, in and around the area bordered by Highland Avenue, the Strand, 26th Street, and 27th Street, roughly a half dozen Black families purchased property in the neighborhood as residences or visitor-serving businesses, including Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George Prioleau and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson, John McCaskill and Elisa L. Irvin, and James and Lulu Slaughter.

B. Willa and Charles A. Bruce established a resort known as Bruce's Beach, with a restaurant, dancehall, changing rooms, and showers. Bruce's Beach became a popular destination for Black Americans from the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area to recreate and enjoy the City's beautiful beach and ocean.

C. Beginning in 1912, historians have documented that both the Black homeowners and visitors to this neighborhood suffered intimidation, harassment, and discrimination on the basis of their race by Manhattan Beach government officials, the police department, and other white residents. These acts consisted of:

- a. Unknown persons setting residences on fire and causing other forms of property damage;
- b. Unknown persons letting out the air from tires of vehicles owned by Black visitors;
- c. An adjacent property owner cordoning off property so as to force Black beachgoers to walk one-half mile from this neighborhood to access the ocean;
- d. The City Council enacting ordinances sharply limiting the creation of new bathhouses and other visitor-serving facilities in direct response to the popularity of Bruce's Beach among the Black American community; and
- e. The City endeavoring to privatize the beach by entering into a sham lease of the adjacent beach with a white property owner in order to exclude Black Americans, and then causing its police department to arrest Black Americans (and only Black Americans) who ventured onto the beach.

D. The purpose of these racially motivated actions was to make Manhattan Beach inhospitable to Black American residents and visitors. Manhattan Beach residents at the time are on record

expressing concern over the effect a Black population in Manhattan Beach would have on property values.

E. When the acts of intimidation and harassment prior to 1924 did not have the desired effect of excluding Black Americans from the community, white residents, including realtors and civic leaders, pressured and persuaded the City Council to exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire the land as a pretext for use as a public park. The land was not developed as a park for approximately 30 years.

F. The City condemned properties included those of Black property owners Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George Prioleau and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson. Twenty-five other properties owned by White property owners were also condemned as part of the action.

G. As a result of the racially motivated condemnation proceedings undertaken by the City, a flourishing Black American-owned business was closed and a burgeoning Black neighborhood was scattered. This action, together with the now illegal practices of red-lining and racially restrictive property covenants, contributed to a lack of diversity within the community.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the City of Manhattan Beach formally apologizes for:

A. The City's racially motivated and discriminatory condemnation action to dispossess Willa and Charles A. Bruce, Major George and Mrs. Ethel Prioleau, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary R. Sanders, Milton and Anna Johnson of their rightful property. The City directly apologizes to these former property owners for unjustly taking their property under false pretenses.

B. The role that the City played by tolerating racial discrimination and harassment by City residents that went unpunished, causing terror and intimidation among the Black community.

C. The role that the City played conspiring to exclude Black Americans from its beach and utilizing its police force to enforce such exclusion by way of unlawful and unconstitutional arrests and prosecutions.

D. The role that the City played enacting facially neutral ordinances with the well documented intention to discourage the expansion of Black owned commercial hospitality enterprises and to stymie the increasing popularity of the City as a recreation destination for Black Americans in the greater Los Angeles area.

E. The role that the City played, and the effect it had, to discourage Black Americans from living, owning a business and visiting Manhattan Beach which contributed to the institutionalization of racism, limiting Black Americans' access to wealth accumulation, employment, housing, healthcare, and equally funded education.

F. The City's overdue recognition of these events to the detriment of generations of Manhattan Beach residents.

The City Council hereby:

- A. Acknowledges Manhattan Beach's history which included racially motivated discrimination.
- B. Pledges to actively participate in confronting, and standing up against, racism, hate, intolerance and exclusion in our community.
- C. Pledges to promote racial equality and inclusion in city leadership, staffing, contracting, policy making and ordinances.
- D. Pledges to continue to seek opportunities for education and advise on issues of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

We remain committed to these principles as a community, in deeds as well as words. We don't seek to condemn or divide, rather, we seek understanding and healing. An apology can't change the events of one hundred years ago, nor are today's residents responsible for the past actions of others. However, we offer this apology as a foundational act for Manhattan Beach's next one hundred years and the actions we will take together to Stand Up against prejudice and hate, and to foster a community where all are welcome and treated with respect, fairness, trust and empathy.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA ACKNOWLEDGING GLENDALE'S  
RACIALLY EXCLUSIONARY PAST AS A 'SUNDOWN TOWN'**

**WHEREAS**, racial disparities have existed since the birth of this nation, to the detriment of Black communities and people of color, and persist across wealth, health, education, the criminal justice system, and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census reported that the Black or African American population of Glendale in 1920 was 0.16% and in 2019 was 1.6%;

**WHEREAS**, although no official ordinance or law of the City of Glendale has been found imposing sundown restrictions, oral and written history, public accounts, and newspaper articles plainly demonstrate Glendale's history as a "sundown town" for a significant portion of the 20th century;

**WHEREAS**, such sundown towns throughout the state of California, along with towns and cities in many other states, excluded—often by social and cultural means, including police profiling—members of non-white racial and ethnic groups, particularly African Americans, from living in said jurisdictions or even being inside the city limits after sundown;

**WHEREAS**, the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist organizations established themselves and held meetings in Glendale;

**WHEREAS**, many real estate subdivisions created in Glendale adopted and enforced racially restrictive covenants and deed restrictions that kept African Americans and people of color from purchasing property and living in those subdivisions for several decades in the 20th century in Glendale;

**WHEREAS** individuals who were not white were prohibited from being buried in Glendale's Forest Lawn Memorial Park until the 1960s;

**WHEREAS** redlined maps of Glendale established risk of lending to particular neighborhoods in south Glendale based on the presence of minorities;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Glendale understands the importance of examining what role it has played in institutional racism, both historically and currently, and is ready to embark on a journey towards racial literacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Glendale City Council envisions a city that fosters diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout every community in Glendale;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE** does hereby resolve, declare, and determine, as follows:

- (A) The City of Glendale acknowledges, apologizes for, and condemns all racially-motivated, discriminatory, or exclusionary aspects of the City's history, and deeply regrets the pain, hurt, and suffering such policies have caused;
- (B) The City of Glendale City Council and staff will continue to engage in individual and collective work to understand bias;
- (C) The City of Glendale will continue to examine the historical role that racism has played in Glendale by committing resources to draft a historical context statement with a racial/ethnic theme to better understand and address historical development patterns within Glendale;
- (D) The City of Glendale will review and revise its policies, procedures, ordinances, values, goals, and missions through an anti-racism lens to foster an unbiased and inclusive environment that is free of discrimination and harassment toward any person or group;
- (D) The City of Glendale has launched a year-long series of educational programming to enhance and elevate culturally diverse artistic voices and to bring additional focus on systematic racism by amplifying cultural voices through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion;
- (E) The City of Glendale will promote inclusion and equity, and will stand up to bigotry, hatred, intolerance, racism, and violence; and
- (F) The City of Glendale unequivocally rejects racism in all its forms and is committed to working towards building an antiracist Glendale where people of all races and cultural backgrounds are welcome to live and prosper.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )  
CITY OF GLENDALE )

I, ARAM ADJEMIAN, City Clerk of the City of Glendale, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ was duly adopted by the Council of the City of Glendale, California, at a regular meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 and that the same was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

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City Clerk



City of Spartanburg

## **REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

**TO:** Chris Story, Manager  
**FROM:** Robert Coler, Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** Racial equity, healing, reconciling and unity  
**DATE:** September 24, 2020

**BACKGROUND:** The City Council of Spartanburg recognizes that communities of color have borne the burdens of inequitable social, environmental, economic, and criminal justice policies, practices, and investments. Consistent with its deep resolve to promote equity, inclusion, and diversity in all aspects of city government, City Council desires to make a formal statement regarding its demonstrated efforts to further the aforementioned principles, unequivocally reject racism and racial inequities, commit to creating a community where all are welcome and treated with respect, fairness, trust and empathy, and to pursue meaningful paths to a future of hope for all.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** City Council to approve the attached resolution titled “Healing, Reconciling, and Unity. A Pathway to a More Equitable Spartanburg.”

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL DATA:** N/A.



## **A RESOLUTION**

### **HEALING, RECONCILING, AND UNITY. A PATHWAY TO A MORE EQUITABLE SPARTANBURG.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Spartanburg, SC (herein after “City Council”) acknowledges that communities of color have borne the burdens of inequitable social, environmental, economic, and criminal justice policies, practices, and investments, and understands that the legacy of these inequitable policies has caused deep disparities, harm, and mistrust, and recognizes that racial equity is realized when, and only when, race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes; and

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism that is internalized or interpersonal and systemic racism that is institutional or structural; and

WHEREAS, inequities borne from racism of any kind unacceptably disadvantage specific individuals and communities, while consequently giving advantages to other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spartanburg’s collective prosperity depends upon the equitable access to opportunity for every resident regardless of the color of their skin; and

WHEREAS, persistent discrimination and disparate treatment results in racial inequities in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment, health and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spartanburg has a deep resolve to promote racial equity, inclusion and diversity in all aspects of city government. This commitment is exemplified by our decision to be the first S.C. local government to join the Governmental Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), our implementation of a business accelerator specifically for African-American entrepreneurs (Amplify), our significant and sustained investment in empowerment-based neighborhood revitalization, the initiation of a comprehensive planning process with an innovative equity component, our engagement in the Network for Southern Economic Mobility, our efforts to establish Hello Family, our participation in the Racial Equity Institute, our partnership with the United Way of the Piedmont to address financial stability, and other strategic endeavors initiated in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spartanburg unequivocally rejects racial inequities brought on by a legacy of systemic racism and unjust practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spartanburg pledges to demonstrate its commitment to racial equity through equitable investment and future funding decisions for specific projects, inclusive practices, and socially just polices; and

WHEREAS, as the City Council, we recognize that the humanity and future of the residents of Spartanburg are inextricably bound to one another; and

WHEREAS, we desire Spartanburg to be a place where all are welcome and treated with empathy, respect, fairness, and trust; and

WHEREAS, The City of Spartanburg seeks a meaningful and thoughtful way to heal the wounds of our past, reconcile the differences of our present, and unify around the path forward toward a future of hope for all of our residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, SPARTANBURG, SC, that the City Council confirms the following steps towards a creating a more equitable Spartanburg:

1. City Council acknowledges the historical antecedents of systemic racism in our society and city and is sorry for the racial injustices and long-lasting inequities that have resulted from those policies; we realize that acknowledgement and remorse alone do not heal the painful wounds created by injustice, nor do they ensure better actions for the future; but finding solutions to the racial inequities that exist within our city as a result of this legacy requires that we are forthright about the past and work together to heal and reconcile our community.
2. We commit to the important work of creating a community that is just and fair and full of hope, promise and equitable opportunity for all our citizens.
3. We reject the politics of divisiveness and discord that have plagued many communities across our nation and commit to the residents of Spartanburg that we will endeavor to serve as a unifying force for change and equity for all.
4. We support the various efforts in Spartanburg to promote and sustain racial equity, we pledge to be an anti-racist, equitable, and justice-oriented organization; with the City Council and its staff leadership continuing to identify specific activities to further enhance diversity and to ensure anti-racist principles and practices across leadership, staffing, and contracting.
5. We will promote racial equity through all policies approved by City Council and enhance educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing, and dismantling racism and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development, and public safety.
6. We will continue to advocate locally and nationally for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color and support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.
7. We will continue to work to solidify alliances and partnerships with other organizations that are confronting racism.

8. We will support community efforts to amplify concerns about racist policies and practices and engage actively and authentically with communities of color wherever they live in the City.
9. We will promote and support policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color.
10. We will continue ongoing awareness efforts regarding racial equity including training of city leadership, city staff, and City Council.
11. We will identify clear goals and objectives, including periodic reports to City Council, to assess progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity.

DONE AND RATIFIED This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

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RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 568

**A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING TAMPA'S HISTORY WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF RACIALLY MOTIVATED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS; FORMALLY APOLOGIZING TO ALL FORMER AND CURRENT AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF TAMPA FOR ANY AND ALL PAST PARTICIPATION IN THE DAMAGE THIS SHAMEFUL HISTORY HAS CAUSED; DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A RECONCILIATION COMMISSION WITH A MISSION OF STUDYING AND DEVELOPING PROPOSALS TO REDRESS THE ENDURING NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF SLAVERY AND THE SUBSEQUENT SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION DIRECTED AT TAMPA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENTS BY PROMOTING RACIAL AND SOCIAL EQUITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, in order for the City of Tampa to fully embrace the change necessary to move our community forward, the City Council believes it is necessary to recognize and acknowledge the slavery that flourished in the State of Florida and in Tampa constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of Africans' life and liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, following the abolition of slavery, Tampa continued to perpetuate, condone, and profit from practices that continued to brutalize and disadvantage African Americans, including sharecropping, convict leasing, Jim Crow laws, redlining, unequal education, and disproportionate treatment at the hands of the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, such practices were often overt, but more often covertly adopted or incorporated under the guise of legitimate policy, and formed a complex system of racially motivated discrimination against African Americans, including economic, political, educational, and social discrimination, resulting in African Americans continuing to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health adversities; and

**WHEREAS**, to heal and not to divide, the City Council of the City of Tampa seeks to redress the harms of those who came before us and the injustices that continue to surround us so that we do what we can to make the City of Tampa and its institutions and communities more just and equitable for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** The City Council hereby acknowledges Tampa's history which contributed to a complex system of racially motivated discrimination against African Americans, and formally apologizes to all former and current African American residents of the City of Tampa for the damage this shameful history has caused.

**Section 2.** The City Council apologizes for any and all past participation in sanctioning segregation and systemic discrimination of African Americans.

CM20-64376

**Section 3.** The City Council of Tampa hereby declares its support for the creation of a reconciliation commission, with a mission of studying and developing proposals to redress the enduring negative effects of the institutions of slavery and the subsequent systemic discrimination directed at Tampa’s African American residents by promoting racial and social equity. Such a commission may address:

- a. Public-private partnerships to encourage and facilitate investment in low-income areas to reduce inequality in income and wealth by making targeted and thoughtful investments to uplift both low-income communities and communities of color;
- b. Reforms to policing that reduce racial disparities and provide for the safety and vitality of communities of color and ensure representation and advancement of African Americans and other persons of color amongst the officers that serve the City of Tampa and such communities;
- c. Policies that eliminate the disproportionate mass incarceration of people of color and provide opportunities for meaningful rehabilitation and reentry into the community for those affected by such incarceration;
- d. Policies that protect the right to vote from discrimination based on race;
- e. Strategies that promote race-neutral policies in education, employment, healthcare and housing; and
- f. Policies and programs that educate City of Tampa residents about the injustice of slavery and racial discrimination.

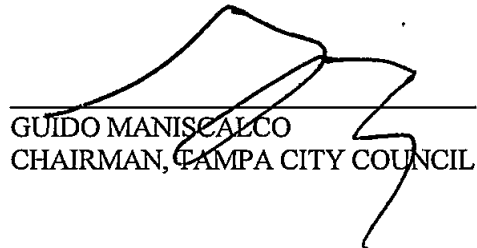
**Section 4.** That the proper officers of the City of Tampa are hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper in order to carry out and make effective the provisions of this resolution.

**Section 5.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA, ON SEP 03 2020.**

ATTEST:

  
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 SHIRLEY FOX-KNOWLES  
 CITY CLERK

  
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 GUIDO MANISCALCO  
 CHAIRMAN, TAMPA CITY COUNCIL

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

                      
 e/s  
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 MARTIN SHELBY  
 CITY COUNCIL ATTORNEY