



ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Thursday, November 9, 2023

1:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber

The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 9, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to consider changes to the Cambridge Municipal Code that would establish an American Freedmen Commission, POR 2023 #185.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor McGovern, Chair
Councillor Zondervan, Chair
Councillor Azeem
Councillor Carlone
Vice Mayor Mallon
Councillor Nolan
Mayor Siddiqui
Councillor Simmons
Councillor Toner

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Ordinance Committee was held on Thursday, November 9, 2023. The meeting was Called to Order shortly after 1:00 p.m. by the Chair, Councillor Zondervan. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation. This public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan noted that the call of the meeting was to consider changes to the Cambridge Municipal Code that would establish an American Freedmen Commission.

Roll Call

At the request of the Chair, City Clerk LeBlanc called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Present/Remote
Councillor Carlone – Present/In Chamber
Vice Mayor Mallon – Absent
Councillor McGovern – Present/In Chamber
Councillor Nolan – Present/In Chamber
Councillor Simmons – Present/In Chamber
Councillor Toner – Absent
Councillor Zondervan – Present/In Chamber
Mayor Siddiqui – Present/In Chamber
Present – 7, Absent – 2. Quorum established.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Nov 9, 2023 1:00 PM (Committee Reports)

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan recognized Saskia VannJames who has led the effort to establish an American Freedmen Commission. Saskia VannJames gave an educational and passionate presentation which, with the permission of Saskia VannJames is attached in its entirety.

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan interrupted the presentation at approximately 1:45 p.m. to recognize Councillor Simmons who needed to leave. Councillor Simmons noted how important this conversation is and that she truly believes in her heart that we are ready and committed to do this work.

Councillor Simmons made a motion to pass the proposed ordinance language to establish an American Freedmen Commission, to a second reading. See attached.

City Clerk LeBlanc called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Councillor Carlone – Yes

Vice Mayor Mallon – Absent

Councillor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Simmons – Yes

Councillor Toner – Absent

Councillor Zondervan – Yes

Mayor Siddiqui – Yes

Yes – 7, Absent – 2. Motion passed.

After the vote was taken, there was applause in the Chamber.

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan recognized Saskia VannJames to continue with the presentation.

Saskia VannJames noted how emotional this work has been and expressed gratitude to the City Council for moving this forward.

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan opened public comment. The following individuals participated, each expressing their support; Lydia Eccles of 63 Allston Street, Naomi Jensen, and a third speaker whose name was audible as Celine.

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan recognized Councillor McGovern, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Carlone, and Mayor Siddiqui for comments and questions. All Councillors expressed their gratitude for the informative and educational presentation and the tremendous work that has been done. The Chair, Councillor Zondervan recognized City Manager Huang and Acting City Solicitor Bayer who expressed their support and offered that there might be an opportunity to enhance the language. The Chair, Councillor Zondervan, also expressed his appreciation. Because of the significance of this public hearing, the complete closed caption transcript is provided as an attachment.

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan recognized Councillor McGovern who made a motion that the City Manager be and is hereby requested to direct the Law Department and any

other relevant department to review the proposed ordinance language to create the Freedmen Commission and provide any recommendations in writing to the full City Council by November 20, 2023.

City Clerk LeBlanc called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Councillor Carlone – Yes

Vice Mayor Mallon – Absent

Councillor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Simmons – Absent

Councillor Toner – Absent

Councillor Zondervan – Yes

Mayor Siddiqui – Yes

Yes – 6, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.

The Chair, Councillor Zondervan made a motion to adjourn.

City Clerk LeBlanc called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Councillor Carlone – Yes

Vice Mayor Mallon – Absent

Councillor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Simmons – Absent

Councillor Toner – Absent

Councillor Zondervan – Yes

Mayor Siddiqui – Yes

Yes – 6, No – 0, Absent – 3. Motion passed.

Attachments:

Proposed Ordinance Language to establish the American Freedmen Commission

American Freedmen Commission Proposal Presentation

Closed Caption Transcript

Clerk's Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/611?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=032c2e7ee619d1e29f7a3ac0e7fedaf0

That the City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate City staff to establish an American Freedmen Commission.

ATTACHMENT – LANGUAGE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 9, 2023, AND SENT TO FULL COUNCIL WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO PASS TO A SECOND READING.

Chapter 2.131 - American Freedmen Commission

2.131.010 - Definitions.

1. “Cambridge Residents” shall mean: persons who have established residency in the City of Cambridge, legal or otherwise, including immigrants, citizens and people who were born and or raised in whole or in part in Cambridge.
2. "Transitional Justice" shall mean: Adequate, effective and prompt reparations to redress gross or serious violations of international human rights law, including but not limited to enslavement, genocide, racism, land theft, denial of healthcare, denial of housing, denial of economic opportunity, mass incarceration and other historical, systemic and ongoing injustices perpetrated by the State against Cambridge Residents.
3. “Chattel Slavery” shall mean: the practice of enslaving and owning people as property, including their descendants, starting in the 14th century, and ending in the 19th century.
4. “American Freedmen” shall mean: persons who were freed from Chattel Slavery in the United States, and their descendants.

2.131.020 - Establishment and Purpose

A. There shall be a Cambridge American Freedmen Commission consisting of no less than five and no more than fifteen members, at least 85% of them identifying as American Freedmen.

B. The Commission shall be considered a department of the City, with all the rights and responsibilities thereof. The Executive Director of the Commission shall be considered the Department Head.

C. Commissioners shall be paid a stipend.

D. The Cambridge American Freedmen Commission shall work with the City Manager and/or their assistants, including the Chief of Equity and Inclusion, and other Departments to implement Transitional Justice for Cambridge Resident American Freedmen. The Commission will investigate and report on the historical, systemic and ongoing harms done to American Freedmen by the State (Federal, Massachusetts and Cambridge governments), and identify adequate, effective and prompt reparations.

E. The City Manager, through the Office of Equity and Inclusion, shall have the power to issue additional regulations to facilitate and further the work of the Commission.

City of Cambridge

AMERICAN FREEDMEN COMMISSION FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

NOVEMBER 9, 2023



AGENDA

1. IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM

2. TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE VS
RACIAL JUSTICE

1. SUMMARY OF REPARATIONS

2. DETAILED OVERVIEW OF REPARATIONS

3. PROPOSED SOLUTION

4. IMMEDIATE VISION FOR ACTION

5. LONGTERM VISION FOR ACTION



AMERICA WE HAVE A PROBLEM

“BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN COVERS EVERYONE FROM A DESCENDANT OF ENSLAVED PERSONS WHO GREW UP POOR IN THE RURAL SOUTH, TO A FIRST-GENERATION CHILD OF WEALTHY NIGERIAN IMMIGRANTS, TO A BLACK-IDENTIFYING APPLICANT WITH MULTIRACIAL ANCESTRY WHOSE FAMILY LIVES IN A TYPICAL AMERICAN SUBURB.”

-SUPREME COURT JUSTICE GORSUCH DURING RECENT SUPREME COURT RULING THAT ENDED RACE-BASED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.



American Freedmen Commission Proposal Presentation



TRANSITIONAL	RACIAL
HUMAN RIGHTS	CIVIL RIGHTS



WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE?

“ADEQUATE, EFFECTIVE AND
PROMPT REPARATION IS INTENDED
TO PROMOTE JUSTICE BY
REDRESSING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
LAW OR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN
LAW.”

- UNITED NATIONS



AUGUST 21, 2023

WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE?

"REPARATION SHOULD BE PROPORTIONAL TO THE GRAVITY OF THE VIOLATIONS AND THE HARM SUFFERED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS DOMESTIC LAWS AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS, A STATE SHALL PROVIDE REPARATION TO VICTIMS FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS WHICH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE STATE AND CONSTITUTE GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW OR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW. IN CASES WHERE A PERSON, A LEGAL PERSON, OR OTHER ENTITY IS FOUND LIABLE FOR REPARATION TO A VICTIM, SUCH PARTY SHOULD PROVIDE REPARATION TO THE VICTIM OR COMPENSATE THE STATE IF THE STATE HAS ALREADY PROVIDED REPARATION TO THE VICTIM."

- UNITED NATIONS



AUGUST 21, 2023

WHAT IS REPARATIONS?

REPARATIONS IS A PROCESS THAT INVOLVES FIVE STEPS ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW VIA UNITED NATIONS. THESE FIVE STEPS INCLUDE:

1. CESSATION, ASSURANCES AND GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION
2. RESTITUTION AND REPATRIATION
3. COMPENSATION
4. REHABILITATION
5. SATISFACTION



AUGUST 21, 2023

WHAT IS CESSATION, ASSURANCES AND GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION?

MEANING/DEFINITION:

UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, A STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR WRONGFULLY INJURING A PEOPLE “IS UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO A) “CEASE THE ACT IF IT IS CONTINUING, AND, B) OFFER APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES AND GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION...”

EXAMPLE:

THERE ARE OVER 15 CARIBBEAN ISLANDS THAT ARE RECOGNIZED AS SOVEREIGN NATIONS WITH FULL INTERNATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY INCLUDING ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, BELIZE, CUBA, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GRENADA, GUYANA, HAITI, JAMAICA, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SURINAME, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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AUGUST 21, 2023

WHAT IS RESTITUTION AND REPATRIATION?

MEANING/DEFINITION:

RESTITUTION MEANS TO

"RE-ESTABLISH THE SITUATION WHICH EXISTED BEFORE THE WRONGFUL ACT WAS COMMITTED."

REPATRIATION IS "THE PROCESS OF RETURNING ANCESTRAL REMAINS, SACRED OBJECTS, OR CULTURAL PROPERTY TAKEN WITHOUT CONSENT OR THROUGH COERCIVE MEANS TO THEIR ORIGINAL OR RIGHTFUL COMMUNITIES AS A WAY TO RECTIFY PAST WRONGS AND PROMOTE JUSTICE."

EXAMPLE:

THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT (NAGPRA), ENACTED IN 1990



AUGUST 21, 2023

WHAT IS COMPENSATION?

MEANING/DEFINITION:

FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL RESTITUTION TO INDIVIDUALS OR COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE SUFFERED HARM DUE TO PAST INJUSTICES OR VIOLATIONS OF THEIR RIGHTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MONETARY RESTITUTION, PROPERTY RESTITUTION, LOST OPPORTUNITIES, PENSIONS OR SUPPORT, COLLECTIVE COMPENSATION, AND REPARATION PROGRAMS

EXAMPLE:

CALIFORNIA TASKFORCE RECOMMENDS DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS AS COMPENSATION FOR BLACK AMERICAN DESCENDANTS OF CHATTEL SLAVERY IN U.S.



AUGUST 21, 2023

WHAT IS REHABILITATION?

MEANING/DEFINITION:

PROCESS AIMED AT RESTORING THE DIGNITY, RIGHTS, AND WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS OR COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE SUFFERED HARM DUE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, CONFLICT, OR OTHER FORMS OF INJUSTICE. THIS INCLUDES MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SOCIAL SERVICES, COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION, ECONOMIC SUPPORT, ACCESS TO JUSTICE, ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

EXAMPLE:

JEWISH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN ROXBURY, MA



WHAT IS SATISFACTION?

MEANING/DEFINITION:

SATISFACTION IS PART OF FULL REPARATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR MORAL DAMAGE, SUCH AS "EMOTIONAL INJURY, MENTAL SUFFERING, AND INJURY TO REPUTATION." IN SOME INSTANCES WHERE CESSATION, RESTITUTION, AND COMPENSATION DO NOT BRING FULL REPAIR, SATISFACTION IS ALSO NEEDED. APOLOGY FALLS UNDER THE REPARATIVE CATEGORY OF SATISFACTION.

EXAMPLE:

CITY OF BOSTON ISSUED A FORMAL APOLOGY TO BLACK AMERICANS THAT ARE DESCENDANTS OF CHATTEL SLAVERY WITHIN THE U.S.



AUGUST 21, 2023

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED SOLUTION?

NAME THE HARM:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE AMERICAN FREEDMEN
2. PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

EXAMPLE:

FREEDMENS BUREAU ACT OF 1865
FREEDMENS SAVINGS BANK OF 1865



AUGUST 21, 2023

IMMEDIATE VISION FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

1. SUPPORT AN AMERICAN FREEDMEN
COMMISSION ORDINANCE IN YOUR
TOWN
2. BUILD COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING
SAFE LEARNING SPACES ON
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE



AUGUST 21, 2023

IMMEDIATE VISION FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

SUPPORT
REPARATIVE JUSTICE
BASED PROGRAMS
FOR AMERICAN
FREEDMEN IN
CAMBRIDGE

GROWING FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT

ARE YOU A BLACK PERSON AND

- ☐ WANT TO LEARN HOW TO GROW
- ☐ LACK ACCESS TO SAFE GROW SPACE
- ☐ CANT AFFORD ORGANIC FOOD?

OR

- ☐ KNOW ORGANIC GROW PRACTICES
- ☐ WILLING TO MENTOR SOMEONE
- ☐ AVAILABLE ONCE A MONTH

IF SO JOIN OUR BLACK GROWER CIRCLE AT:
GROWTOCONSUME.ORG



QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US AT
GROWTOCONSUME@GMAIL.COM

BLACK, WOMEN, QUEER
FOUNDED ORGANIZATION



AUGUST 21, 2023

American Freedmen Commission Proposal Presentation

IMMEDIATE VISION FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

1. CITY WIDE TRAINING ON TRANSITIONAL AND
REPARATIVE JUSTICE
2. JOIN STATE CONVERSATIONS FOR TRANSITIONAL
JUSTICE IN MASSACHUSETTS BILL, H.3921, DEVELOPED
WITH NATIONAL REPARATIONS ADVOCACY GROUP,
SOLIDARITY, FOUNDER ANTONIA EDWARDS



LONGTERM VISION: NORMALIZE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN CAMBRIDGE

- PERMANENT RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN FREEDMEN BY FEDERALLY LEGAL NAME AND NOT BY RACE.
- REPARATIONS IS A PROCESS. THE TRUE COST IS BEYOND ANY CITY BUDGET.
- PROVIDE REPAIR SERVICES TO AMERICAN FREEDMEN THROUGH OFFICE OF FREEDMEN AFFAIRS.



AUGUST 21, 2023

American Freedmen Commission Proposal Presentation

LONGTERM VISION FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN YOUR TOWN

- NORMALIZE CULTURE OF TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE FOR YOUR TOWN
- ALL CITY COUNCILORS AND MAYOR ARE TO JOIN STATE AND NATIONAL CONVERSATIONS OF TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN ADVOCACY OF ENDING RACE BASED IDEOLOGY WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT.
- SUPPORT LAND OWNERSHIP FOR AMERICAN FREEDMEN AS PART OF 40 ACRES REPARATIONS CLAIM



AUGUST 21, 2023

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American Freedmen Commission Proposal Presentation

SUPPORT TRANSITIONAL AND REPARATIVE JUSTICE IN YOUR TOWN

CONTACT ME:
GROWTOCONSUME@GMAIL.COM



CLOSED CAPTIONED TRANSCRIPT FROM THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2023, ON THE CREATION OF A FREEDMEN COMMISSION – CHAIR, COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

>>> WELCOME EVERYONE.

I WILL CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER. THE CALL OF THE MEETING IS TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE CAMBRIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE THAT WOULD ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN FREEDMEN COMMISSION POLICY ORDER NUMBER 223 – 185. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS A ROLL CALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

>>> COUNCILOR AZEEM?

>>> Councilor Azeem: PRESENT.

>>> COUNCILOR CARLONE?

>>> Councilor Carlone: PRESENT.

>>> VICE MAYOR MALLON?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR MCGOVERN?

>>> Councilor McGovern: PRESENT.

>>> COUNCILOR NOLAN?

>>> Councilor Nolan: PRESENT.

>>> COUNCILOR SIMMONS?

>>> Councilor Simmons: PRESENT.

>>> COUNCILOR TONER?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR ZONDERVAN?

>>> Councilor Zondervan: PRESENT.

>>> MAYOR SIDDIQUI?

>>> Mayor Siddiqui: PRESENT.

>>> MR CHAIR, YOU HAVE SEVEN

MEMBERS WHO ARE PRESENT, TWO MEMBERS ARE ABSENT.

>>> THANK YOU, MADAM CLERK. PURSUANT TO CHAPTER TWO THE ACT OF 2023 ADOPTED BY MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE CITY IS AUTHORIZED TO USE REMOTE PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS FOR THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES. IN ADDITION TO HAVING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PARTICIPATE REMOTELY WE HAVE ALSO SET UP ZOOM TELECONFERENCE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. TO WATCH THE MEETING TUNE INTO CHANNEL 22 OR VISIT THE OPEN MEETING PORTAL (MIC CUT OUT).CITIES WEBPAGE, INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO SIGN UP TO SPEAK ARE POSTED THERE ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE PROCEDURE YOU WILL RECEIVE A LINK

TO THE ZOOM MEETING. WE WILL ALLOW EACH SPEAKER THREE MINUTES, THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN UP AFTER 1:30 P.M. WITH THAT, ALL TODAY'S VOTES WILL BE BY ROLL CALL. I BELIEVE WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE SIGNED UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, AS OF RIGHT NOW. WE WILL BE GETTING A PRESENTATION FROM (NAME) JAMES WHO'S BEEN WORKING ON THIS POLICY WITH US FOR THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF TWO YEARS. THEN WE WILL ALSO HEAR FROM CITY STAFF, AND THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT FOLKS MIGHT HAVE. WHILE WE WAIT FOR MS. VAN JAMES, IF ANY OF MY COLLEAGUES WANT TO SPEAK.

COUNCILOR SIMMONS?

>> Councilor Simmons: THANK YOU, MR CHAIR. THIS IS A REALLY GREAT MOMENT TO GO FROM THE WORK THAT HAS GONE THROUGH THIS, THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE BY MS. VAN JAMES THROUGH YOUR OFFICE. A GREAT COLLABORATION TO BRING THIS BEFORE US SO THAT WE CAN BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REPAIRING THE DAMAGE. I WON'T SAY PURPOSELY, I WILL GET INTO THAT BUT JAMES HAS HAPPENED TO THE AFRICAN BLACK CITIZENS AND PEOPLE THAT BROUGHT HERE AGAINST THEIR WILL. SO, I LOOK FORWARD TO DOING THIS WORK. I HOPE NOT ONLY WE WORK HARD IN MAKING THIS HAPPEN, BUT WE WILL ALL GET A BIT OF EDUCATION ABOUT NOT ONLY WHAT WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT TODAY, BUT IN TERMS OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND HOW WE EDUCATE OTHERS. I'M REALLY PLEASED TO BE HERE. I WANT TO SAY, MR CHAIR, I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE, I HAVE TO LEAVE AT 1:45 P.M. BUT I WILL BE HERE UP UNTIL THEN AND VERY WILLING TO BE ENGAGED IN THIS WORK GOING FORWARD. I YIELD THE FLOOR. THANK YOU SO MUCH COUNCILOR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK ON THIS. IT'S BEEN, AS YOU SAID, A GREAT COLLABORATION AND I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT WHERE WE ARE AT THIS MOMENT. WE WILL DEFINITELY GET AN EDUCATION FROM MS. VAN JAMES; WE DID HEAR THIS PRESENTATION CIVIC UNITY CHAIRED BY COUNCILOR SIMMONS A MONTH OR SO AGO. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING IT AGAIN. > THANK YOU, SO THIS PROPOSAL FOR THIS ORDINANCE STARTED OUT AS A TASK FORCE, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR. WE STARTED OUT AS A TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION TASK FORCE, AND THAT THE LAST, THE CIVIC UNITY KIM UNITY MEETING, OUR CITY COUNCILOR SAID THAT THEY AGREED WITH ME WHEN I WAS IN MY ADVOCACY SAYING THAT TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE NEEDS TO BE PERMANENT IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. THAT OUR CITY COUNCILORS NEED AN ADDITIONAL TOOL TO COMBAT THE INSTITUTIONAL RACISM, AND THE OPPRESSION THAT IS OCCURRING IN OUR SOCIETY. ESSENTIALLY YOU GUYS NEED ADDITIONAL TOOLS IN YOUR POCKET

TO ADDRESS THE CONVERSATIONS THAT WE ARE HAVING IN SOCIETY TODAY. IN THAT CONVERSATION, THE ADVOCACY FOR IT TO BECOME PERMANENT WAS GREETED WITH SUCCESS. SO THIS PUSHED THE CONVERSATION TO A DIFFERENT LEVEL, WHERE NOW WE ARE LOOKING AT FOR THIS TO BE PERMANENT, THAT WE NEED TO HAVE COMMISSION. WHEN YOU'RE DOING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, AND HAS A FRAMEWORK, WHICH I WILL GET INTO BUT I JUST WANTED TO SAY VERY CLEARLY, THAT TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE REQUIRES YOU TO NAME THE SPECIFIC HARM, AND WHO WOULD SPECIFICALLY HAS HARMED. I'M GOING OVER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL JUSTICE. NEXT SLIDE PLEASE. WE ARE GOING TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM; WE WILL COMPARE AND CONTRAST TO HAVE AN OVERVIEW OF OPTIONAL OF JUSTICE. WE WILL DO A SUMMARY OF REPARATIONS, THEN A DETAILED OVERVIEW OF REPARATIONS, A PROPOSED SOLUTION, WHICH YOU KNOW WE HAVE - YOU HAVE AND AN IMMEDIATE VISION FOR ACTION AND A LONG-TERM VISION FOR ACTION. NEXT SLIDE PLEASE. SO, AMERICA, WE HAVE A PROBLEM. OUR SUPREME COURT RECENTLY RULED TO AND RACE AS A FACTOR AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. IN THAT, IN THAT RULING,

THERE WERE STATEMENTS GIVEN AND ONE OF THE STATEMENTS THAT WAS GIVEN WAS THAT BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN COVERS EVERYONE FROM A DISSENT OF SLAVE PERSONS WHO GREW UP POOR IN THE RURAL SOUTH, TO A FRESH GENERATION CHILD OF WEALTHY NIGERIAN IMMIGRANTS, TO A BLACK IDENTIFYING APPLICANT WITH MULTIRACIAL ANCESTRY WHOSE FAMILY LIVES IN A TYPICAL AMERICAN SUBURB. PRIOR TO THE 1980S, BLACK IS ALMOST A LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE UNITED STATES WERE BLACK IMMIGRANTS. SINCE THEN WE HAVE EXPLODED TO TEN PERCENT, AND WE ARE PREDICTED TO REACH 30 PERCENT BY 2050. BLACK IS GOING TO BE EVER CHANGING, EVOLVING, WE ARE GOING TO BE A NEW TERRITORY, AND THE UNITED STATES, WHERE WE ARE GOING TO BE HAVING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND REALIZING THAT BLACK IS NOT A MONOLITH, AND BLACK PEOPLE EXIST ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE. THE GOING TO BE LIVING HERE IN OUR CITY AND LIVING HERE IN OUR COUNTRY. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL JUSTICE IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE IN THIS CONVERSATION, I HAVE FOUND THAT THE RHETORIC OF REPARATIONS HAVE BEEN, THERE'S BEEN PUBLIC MISINFORMATION THAT REPARATIONS IS RACIAL JUSTICE, I WANT TO CLARIFY THAT REPARATIONS IS NOT RACIAL JUSTICE. REPARATION IS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE; RACIAL JUSTICE IS BASED UPON CIVIL RIGHTS. SO, WHEN YOU - THE CIVIL RIGHTS, IF YOU'RE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE LEGAL LANGUAGE OF IT, IT LITERALLY SAYS THAT THE CONTRACTOR TO BE EQUAL TO WHITES, ESSENTIALLY FEDERAL FUNDING. EVERYBODY IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THESE CONTRACTS, TO THESE FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. PRIOR TO CIVIL RIGHTS, IT WAS DISCRIMINATORY, AND IT WAS UTILIZED TO UPHOLD WHITE AMERICANS. SO THE CIVIL RIGHTS WAS TO AMEND THAT, AND TO ESSENTIALLY PROVIDE EQUITY. THAT IS A WHOLE CONVERSATION IN AND OF ITSELF, HOWEVER, WHETHER THAT IS ACCESSIBLE OR NOT HAS BEEN A CONVERSATION OF ITSELF. THAT IS WHAT RACIAL JUSTICE IS ABOUT. WHEN YOU PUT REPARATIONS AS RACIAL JUSTICE, AND JUST APPLY IT THAT WAY. WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT YOU END UP LIKE RHODE ISLAND WHERE THEY HAVE USED FEDERAL FUNDS FOR REPARATIONS, AND WHITE RESIDENTS QUALIFIED AND WERE ABLE TO RECEIVE REPARATIONS. WHEN YOU MAKE REPARATIONS RACE-BASED, IF YOU SAY ALL BLACK (MIC CUT OUT). IT IS JUST THAT BECAUSE HE MADE IT BASED UPON RACE, NOW YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT A GOAL TO EVERYBODY. THEREFORE, THAT INCLUDES WHITE PEOPLE. INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMIC RACISM. THAT IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO DOWN THE ROAD. THE OTHER ROUTE IS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, WHICH IS BASED UPON HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS IS A LOT TRICKIER BECAUSE IT REQUIRES SPECIFICITY AND ALSO REQUIRES US TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BLACK IS NOT A MONOLITH. WE ARE AT A POINT IN TIME RIGHT NOW IN OUR COUNTRY WHERE WE ARE REALLY JUST STARTING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BLACK PEOPLE ARE HUMANS TOO. WE ARE STILL LITERALLY HAVING THIS CONVERSATION. WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSITIONAL, I WILL GO INTO MORE DETAILS AND THEN WANT YOU GUYS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS ABOUT GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAVE TO BE VERY SPECIFIC, AND WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS CLEARLY FALLS WITHIN A REVIEW OF BEING A GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT CIVIL RIGHTS. WHEN WE ARE DOING THIS WORK. WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, WHEN YOU LOOK UP TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, IT'S LIKE SEVERAL PAGES. I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR. I HAVE AUGMENTED IT AND CONDENSED IT DOWN SPECIFICALLY TO THE AREAS THAT PERTAIN AROUND REPARATIONS TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THIS. ADEQUATE EFFECTIVE AND PROMPT REPARATION IS INTENDED TO PROMOTE JUSTICE BY REDRESSING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, OR A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITY HUMANITARIAN LAW. THAT IS BY THE UNITED NATIONS. ALL THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED ARE ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS IS LEANING ON INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND I THINK THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT, BECAUSE IF WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Nov 9, 2023 1:00 PM (Committee Reports)

HAS BEEN COMPLICIT IN GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WE ARE GOING TO NEED TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY. THAT IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT I'M ASKING OUT OF HERE TODAY IN CAMBRIDGE, IS FOR US TO WALK IN A PLACE OF TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY TO BE THAT SPARK HERE. TO GO FURTHER IN, AND I READ THIS LAST TIME AND WHEN I READ IT LAST TIME, I SAID OTHER PEOPLE WOULD SAY THIS IS TOO LENGTHY, THESE ARE TOO MANY WORDS BUT WE ARE IN THE CITY HALL OF CAMBRIDGE, IF THERE'S NO OTHER PLACE TO READ A LAW, THEN I DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO BE. I WILL TAKE THE TIME TO READ ALL OF THIS FOR YOU guys' REPARATIONS SHOULD BE PROPORTIONAL TO THE GRAVITY OF THE VIOLATIONS AND THE HARM SUFFERED, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS DOMESTIC LAWS AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS, A STATE SHALL PROVIDE REPARATION TO VICTIMS FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS WHICH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE STATE AND CONSTITUTE GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, OR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW. IN CASES WHERE A PERSON OR A LEGAL PERSON, OR OTHER ENTITY IS FOUND LIABLE FOR REPARATION TO A VICTIM, SUCH PARTY SHOULD PROVIDE REPARATION TO THE VICTIM OR COMPENSATE THE STATE IF THE STATE HAS ALREADY PROVIDED REPARATION TO THE VICTIM. WHAT ARE REPARATIONS? A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE, REPARATIONS, THEY HEAR THE WORD AND IT'S A CHECK, I WANT MY CHECK, I WANT MY CHECK. REPARATIONS IS NOT ABOUT A CHECK; IT IS A PROCESS. TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE HAS A PROCESS, AND THAT PROCESS IS REPARATIONS. REPARATIONS HAS FIVE STEPS. THE FIRST ONE IS CESSATION, ASSURANCES, GUARANTEES, NON-REPETITION PAID THE SECOND ONE IS RESTITUTION AND REPATRIATION, THERE IS COMPENSATION. FOURTH IS REHABILITATION, AND FAITH IS SATISFACTION. WE ARE GOING TO GO INTO ALL OF THESE IN DETAIL. NEXT SLIDE PLEASE. THE FIRST ONE, WHAT IS (MIC CUT OUT). WRONGFULLY INJURING PEOPLE IS AN OBLIGATION TO CEASE THE ACT IF IT IS CONTINUING AND OFFER APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES AND GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THAT THERE ARE OVER 15 CARIBBEAN ISLANDS RECOGNIZED AS SOVEREIGN NATIONS WITH FULL INTERNATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. I HAVE LISTED THEM ALL OUT HERE ON THIS SLIDE. THIS IS VERY DEAR TO ME BECAUSE AMERICAN FREEDMEN DO NOT HAVE SOVEREIGNTY. THAT IS WHAT THIS COMMISSION THAT WE ARE PROPOSING TODAY TO ACKNOWLEDGE, IS THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A WHOLE ETHNIC GROUP THAT HAVE LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY, LOSS OF HOMELAND. I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT LOSS OVER THIS FACT. I CELEBRATE OUR CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, WE HAVE CARNIVAL EVERY YEAR, HAITIANS REMIND US EVERY YEAR ABOUT THEIR LIBERATION, AND THEIR REVOLUTION, HOW WE OVERCAME THAT HERE WE ARE, 2023 AND WE ARE IN A PLACE WHERE THAT DID NOT OCCUR FOR OUR AMERICAN FREEDMEN. THIS IS A VERY COMPLEX CONVERSATION BECAUSE WE HAVE BLACK AMERICANS HERE WHO HAVE HOMELAND - SOVEREIGNTY IN THEIR HOMELAND. YET, THERE ARE BLACK AMERICANS HERE WHO DO NOT. WE HAVE TO NOW EXPLORE EQUITY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE LENS, THIS IS INCREDIBLY COMPLEX AND I JUST DON'T WANT TO GLOSS THAT OVER. NEXT SLIDE. RESTITUTION MEANS TO REPATRIATION. RESTITUTION MEANS TO REESTABLISH A SITUATION IN WHICH COMMITTED BEFORE THE WRONGFUL ACT WAS COMMITTED, AND REPATRIATION IS THE PROCESS OF RETURNING ANCESTRAL REMAINS, TAKING OBJECTS OR CULTURAL PROPERTY, TAKING WITHOUT CONSENT WERE THROUGH COURSE OF MEANS TO THE ORIGINAL OR RIGHTFUL COMMUNITIES AS A WAY TO RECTIFY PAST WRONGS AND PROMOTE JUSTICE. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT ENACTED IN 1990. YOU CAN THINK OF AN EXAMPLE OF THIS, HERE IN CAMBRIDGE AND HARVARD SQUARE, WE HAVE IN SLAVERS BURIED - WE HAVE A GRAVEYARD BY HARVARD SQUARE AND IN SLAVERS BURIED RIGHT NEXT TO SLAVES. YOU HAVE TO INSULATE PEOPLE AND UNDERSTAND, MY ANCESTORS HAVE NO PEACE LAYING NEXT TO THE PEOPLE THAT ACTUALLY HARMED THEM AND ENSLAVED THEM.

THAT IS NOT A PEACEFUL PLACE FOR THEM. SO THERE HAS TO BE CONVERSATIONS AROUND HOW DO WE HONOR THE ENSLAVED PEOPLE THAT ARE STAYING THERE, HOW DO WE GO ABOUT THIS, THAT IS A WHOLE CONVERSATION AS PART OF OUR REPATRIATION. THEN RESTITUTION, THAT IS A WHOLE OTHER CONVERSATION, HOW DO YOU REESTABLISH THE SITUATION THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE WRONGFUL ACT WAS COMMITTED. THAT WILL TAKE A VERY LENGTHY CONVERSATION, AN ONGOING CONVERSATION, IT GENERATIONAL CONVERSATION BECAUSE THIS WAS GENERATIONS, AND THE BEING. IT'S GOING TO TAKE GENERATIONS OF HEALING IN THAT ASPECT. I'M TRYING TO SPEAK FAST BECAUSE I WANT TO MAKE SURE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR EVERYBODY AS WELL. I DO HAVE A LOT OF THOUGHTS ON ALL THESE THINGS. WHAT IS COMPENSATION, COMPENSATION THE FINANCIAL MATERIAL RESTITUTION TO INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE SUFFERED HARM DUE TO PAST INJUSTICES ARE VIOLATIONS TO THEIR RIGHTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MONETARY RESTITUTION, PROPERTY RESTITUTION, LOST OPPORTUNITIES, PENSION OR SUPPORT, COLLECTIVE COMPENSATION AND REPARATION PROGRAMS. AN EXAMPLE IS THE CALIFORNIA TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS AS COMPENSATION FOR BLACK AMERICAN DESCENDENTS OF CHILD SLAVERY IN THE SEAS. (MIC CUT OUT). NOW FILED A BILL WHERE THEY'RE BRINGING FORWARD AN AMERICAN FREEDMEN STATE AGENCY TO EXIST. SO THAT ON A MUNICIPAL LEVEL, THEY CAN MOVE FORWARD. I WILL GO INTO THAT A LITTLE BIT MORE, LET ME GO TO THE DEFINITION AND I WILL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT CALIFORNIA. WITH THIS DEFINITION, YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE THE MONETARY RESTITUTION IS PART OF IT, BUT THERE IS ALSO OTHER PARTS THAT IS DEFINED IN HERE AS PART OF COMPENSATION. I THINK THAT THIS IS REALLY REALLY IMPORTANT FOR US ON A MUNICIPAL LEVEL TO EXAMINE ALL OF THE WAYS WE KNOW THAT MONEY CANNOT HAPPEN ON A MUNICIPAL LEVEL. THEORETICALLY SPEAKING, CAN'T HAPPEN ON A STATE LEVEL, ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE LAST YEAR, THE SURPLUS FOR MASSACHUSETTS WAS \$3 BILLION. THEORETICALLY, WE DON'T HAVE MONEY ON A STATE LEVEL II. THIS IS JUST A FEDERAL CONVERSATION. WHEN IT COMES TO MONETARY, SO I WANT THAT TO BE CLEAR, AND I THINK IT IS VERY VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE EXPECTATION IS LAID CLEARS SO YOU GUYS AS CITY COUNCILORS ARE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE CLEARLY TO OUR RESIDENTS THAT I CANNOT CUT THE CHECK, I DO NOT HAVE THE POWER, IT IS BEYOND OUR CITY BUDGET. I THINK YOU NEED THAT VERY CLEARLY TO BE LAID OUT FOR YOU. SO THAT YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION WHERE YOU GIVING FALSE PROMISES. WHEN IT COMES TO PROPERTY RESTITUTION, I AM SEEING THINGS OCCUR ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT ARE VERY VERY INNOVATIVE. I JUST CAME BACK FROM THE BLACK URBAN GROWERS CONFERENCE AND THEY WENT TO A WORKSHOP ON LAND SAW GRANTEE, AND YOU MUNICIPAL AGENCIES. IT WAS VERY VERY LIKE BLOWN AWAY BY WHAT'S OCCURRING IN ATLANTA. THE WAY THEY'RE WORKING AROUND THIS. IT GAVE ME A LOT OF NEW LANGUAGE TO WORK AROUND TO BRING BACK HERE FOR CAMBRIDGE. THE OTHER THING, WHICH IS PART OF MY ADVOCACY FOR ZONING THE 40 ACRES. THE CITY OF BOSTON RIGHT NOW PUT, THEY HAD AN ORDINANCE FOR 400 LOTS TO GIVE OUT TO THE PUBLIC, AND THE CITY COUNCIL FILED A PETITION TO PAUSE IT. SO THEY'RE NOT GOING TO DISPERSE 400 LOTS OF LAND UNTIL THE REPARATION TASKFORCES DONE, THEY WANT TO SEE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE GOING TO COME OUT OF THE TASK FORCE BEFORE THE 400 LOTS OF LAND ARE GIVEN OVER TO THE PUBLIC. IT'S THINGS LIKE THIS THAT ARE REALLY IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY AS WE ARE LOOKING AT THIS LESS AND LESS LAND AVAILABLE IN CAMBRIDGE, ONLY SIX MILES BIG. WE REALLY NEED TO BE VERY CREATIVE WHEN IT COMES TO THE SPACE THAT WE HAVE, AND ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGING WHAT IS GOING TO BE PROPERTY RESTITUTION GOING ON HERE. WE KNOW THIS IS A COLLEGE TOWN, SO I THINK IT IS GOING TO TAKE THE CITY LEVERAGING THE CITY TO LEVERAGE ITS POWER TO PUSH OUR COLLEGES. I WILL GO INTO THAT IN A MINUTE AS WELL TOO. IN

CALIFORNIA, IT'S NOT THAT REPARATIONS IS JUST FOR AMERICAN FREEDMEN, THEY HAVE TO DO COME THEY HAVE TO GET A STATE AMERICAN FREEDMEN AGENCY UP IN ORDER FOR REPARATIONS TO BE FOR ANY OTHER BLACK PEOPLE BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, YOU'RE EITHER AN IMMIGRANT, OR YOU ARE A NATIVE AMERICAN FREEDMEN ARE IN THIS GREAT AREA WHERE THERE IS NOT ACKNOWLEDGING US. WE HAVE TO PUSH AND CENTER AMERICAN FREEDMEN IN THIS FIGHT SO THAT EVERYBODY ELSE CAN EXPERIENCE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE WILL NEVER SEE THE D IF WE ARE NOT ACKNOWLEDGING AMERICAN FREEDMEN. THAT IS THE ISSUE, WHERE AMERICAN FREEDMEN DO NOT RECEIVE SERVICES UNDERNEATH THE FEDERAL STATE, OR COMMISSION OR REGIONAL OFFICES FOR IMMIGRANT (MIC CUT OUT). WE HAVE TO PUSH FOR THIS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED ON A GRASSROOTS LEVEL, LET'S START IN OUR BACKYARD. THEN PUSH AND COORDINATE REGIONALLY, AND PUSH THE STATE TO MATCH OUR EFFORTS. THEN REGIONALLY, STATE-BY-STATE, WE CAN PUSH OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL TO MATCH OUR DRIVE AND MATCH OUR WORK TO SUPPORT TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. I ALSO THINK THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT, AND I JUST WANT TO SAY THIS HERE, BECAUSE OF EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON IN OUR COUNTRY RIGHT NOW WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT JUSTICE, AND TALKING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AID, WARFARE, OUR COUNTRY IS NOT EDUCATED ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. WITHIN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, WE HAVE TWO IVY LEAGUE COLLEGES, THREE COLLEGES IN TOTAL, TWO OF THEM ARE IVY LEAGUE KNOWN ACROSS THE WORLD. IT IS SHAMEFUL THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IS, THERE'S NO EXCUSE. WHEN IT COMES TO THAT, THINK ABOUT EDUCATION, THINK ABOUT EDUCATION AS ALSO A FORM OF COMPENSATION. HOW WE ARE ACTUALLY EDUCATING ALL OF THE PUBLIC ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. AMERICAN FREEDMEN SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE FLUID IN THIS CONVERSATION, EVERYBODY SHOULD BE FLUID IN THE CONVERSATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I THINK THIS SHOULD PROBABLY BE LIKE IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM, TO BE HONEST. REHABILITATION, A PROCESS AIMED AT RESTORING THE LEVITES AND WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS OF COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE SUFFERED HARM DUE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, CONFLICT OR OTHER FORMS OF INJUSTICE. THIS INCLUDES MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SOCIAL SERVICES, COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION, ECONOMIC SUPPORT, ACCESS TO JUSTICE, ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. AN EXAMPLE IS GIVEN THAT THERE IS A JEWISH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER RIGHT IN ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS. SO, HERE IN CAMBRIDGE, DID AN INVESTIGATION AND SPOKE WITH THE CHIEF OF DEI AT CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL, AND I WAS ALARMED TO FIND THAT WE ARE SEVERELY BEHIND IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, SEVERELY BEHIND. THE CITY OF BOSTON IMPLEMENTED A RACIAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH EQUITY FRAMEWORK IN 2000. IT IS 2023, AND NOTHING EXISTS. WHEN I SPOKE WITH THE CHIEF OF DEIA, EQUITY AT THE CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL, SHE LET ME KNOW - HEALTH ALLIANCE, SORRY. SHE LET ME KNOW THAT THEY DO VIDEOS THAT THE DOCTORS CAN WATCH. THERE IS SOMETHING AROUND THAT AS FAR AS TRAINING, THERE IS NO IN-DEPTH FRAMEWORK. EVEN THOUGH THIS IS RACIAL JUSTICE, IT DOES PERTAIN TO REHABILITATION FOR AMERICAN FREEDMEN, WE ARE GOING TO NEED A RACIAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK, EVEN ON THE ADVOCACY FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT AN ADVOCACY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE. I BELIEVE THAT BOTH ARE GOING TO HAVE TO COEXIST, THAT WE CAN'T JUST DROP ONE AND PICK UP ANOTHER TOOL, WE HAVE TO KEEP ALL THE TOOLS WE HAVE AND ADD MORE TO DEAL WITH WHAT WE ARE DEALING WITH OUR GOVERNOR HAS CREATED A STATE TASK FORCE, A TASK FORCE FOR BLACK ADVANCEMENT, THAT TASK FORCE IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE WITH BACKGROUNDS ON ECONOMICS, AS WELL AS HEALTH. WE HAVE DOCTORS ON THAT TASK FORCE AND I BELIEVE THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT GOVERNOR HALEY AND TAKING LEAD AND

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THAT TASK FORCE TO IMPLEMENT HERE WITHIN THE CITY. I DO EXPECT CITY COUNCILORS TO BE LOOKING AT THIS TASK FORCE, AND TO BE DECIDING, WE ARE GOING TO BE WORKING WITH THEM AND TAKING RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTING THEM. BECAUSE THIS IS GOING TO BE NECESSARY, LIKE THE NEWS TODAY, COUNCILORS COMING ON AND ONCE STAYING ON, THIS WILL BE NECESSARY GOING FORWARD. WE HAVE TO CATCH UP, WE ARE BEHIND. HERE, SPECIFICALLY WITH AMERICAN FREEDMEN, WE HAVE SOMETHING CALLED INTERGENERATIONAL EPIGENETIC TRAUMA WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY A FORM OF THE PTSD, BUT ESSENTIALLY WHAT I READ, AND WHAT THE REPORT IS, THAT GENETICALLY SPEAKING, WE HAVE MARKERS THAT NOBODY ELSE HAS DUE TO THE GROSS VIOLATIONS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING DURING CHILD SLAVERY HERE IN THE U.S. WE HAD BREEDING FARMS WHERE THERE WAS FORCED HUMAN REPRODUCTION GOING ON. SO THERE IS TRAUMA, FOR GENERATIONS THIS WAS OCCURRING. THIS TRAUMA MARKERS THAT I HAVE THAT AMERICAN FREEDMEN HAD, THAT IS NOT FOUND IN ANYBODY ELSE, WHICH REQUIRES DNA, THIS GETS INHERENTLY COMPLEX BECAUSE WHO OWNS THAT DATA. SO THIS STARTS TO BE VERY VERY COMPLEX, VERY QUICKLY. HENCE WHY I'M SAYING WE NEED TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN ORDER TO PROPERLY GIVE PEOPLE THE HEALTHCARE THAT THEY NEED, EXPECTING PEOPLE TO PERFORM AT THE SAME LEVEL AS EVERYBODY ELSE IS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. WE NEED TO BE PROVIDING WAY MORE THAN WHAT WE ARE DOING AND IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE FUNDS FOR THAT. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME REALLY DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS IN ORDER FOR THIS TO ALL OCCUR. I JUST WANTED TO BE VERY CLEAR WITH THAT, THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE BEEN DISCOVERING IN MY RESEARCH, AND IT DOES MATTER. IT EXPLAINS SO MUCH ABOUT WHY OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THINGS ABOUT THE WAY THEY ARE RESPONDING TO THEM. THERE IS JUST A WHOLE VIEW ON LIFE THAT WE HAVE THAT NOBODY ELSE HAS OTHER THAN US BECAUSE OF THE TRAUMA, THE EXTENT OF THE TRAUMA THAT WE HAVE GONE THROUGH. IT'S NOT THAT WE ARE BEING DIFFICULT COMMENTS THAT WE REALLY DO SEE THINGS VERY VERY DIFFERENTLY. (MIC CUT OUT). FULL REPARATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR MORAL DAMAGE, SUCH AS EMOTIONAL INJURY, MENTAL SUFFERING, AND INJURY TO REPUTATION. IN SOME INSTANCES WHERE CESSATION INSTITUTION COMPOSITION DO NOT BRING FULL REPAIR, SATISFACTION IS ALSO NEEDED. APOLOGY FALLS UNDERNEATH THE REPAIRED CATEGORY OF SATISFACTION. AN EXAMPLE FOR THIS IS THE CITY OF BOSTON ISSUED A FORMAL APOLOGY FOR BLACK AMERICANS OF CHILDHOOD SLAVERY WITHIN THE U.S. THAT IS ONE FORM THAT IS GIVING AN APOLOGY. YOU KNOW, FOR MORAL DAMAGE, MORAL DAMAGE IS ONE THE PRESIDENT CALLS YOU A COMMUNITY THUGS, THAT IS MORAL DAMAGING. IT IS DAMAGING ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.WHERE BLACK PEOPLE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES ARE STARTING TO VIEW YOUR COMMUNITY AS NOT WANTING THEIR EDUCATION, AND NOT DESIRING TO WORK, THESE STEREOTYPES ARE HARMFUL AND THEY CAUSE MISCOMMUNICATION WITHIN THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND WITHIN ALL HUMAN BEINGS, NOT JUST THE BLACK COMMUNITY.THE ASIAN COMMUNITY LOOKS AT BLACK AMERICANS DIFFERENTLY, EVERYBODY DOES.WHITE COMMUNITY, THESE STATEMENTS THAT ARE BEING GIVEN ABOUT US WITHOUT ACTUALLY PROVIDING AID OR JUST REALLY HARMFUL, REALLY REALLY HARMFUL. WE HAVE TO EXPLORE WHAT DOES SATISFACTION MEAN, AND WE HAVE TO, AGAIN, I STRESS THAT THIS IS A GENERATIONAL CONVERSATION. AS WE MAKE PROGRESS, IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU DO GOOD, THAT IS GREAT, BUT YOU DID IT ACROSS THE FINISH LINE. OUR CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS GOING TO PUSH US, NO, WE HAVE TO GO THERE. WE ARE NOT THERE YET, WE HAVE TO GET OVER THERE AND THAT IS THE GOAL OUT OF THIS, THAT WE HAVE TO GET TO A PLACE WHERE WE ARE HONORING EACH OTHER AS HUMAN BEINGS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS THAT PROCESS. WHAT IS THE PROPOSED SOLUTION. THE PROPOSED SOLUTION IS TO NAME THE HARM. ONE OF THE

THINGS THAT I WAS VERY FRUSTRATED, THE SUPREME COURT AND EVERYTHING GOING ON, IS NO, YOU CAN'T - BASICALLY, WE KNOW THERE IS INSTITUTIONAL RACISM, BUT YOU CAN'T ACKNOWLEDGE BLACK PEOPLE. THIS IS INSANE BECAUSE AS AMERICAN FREEDMEN, WE HAVE NO OTHER NAME. THAT IS NOT TRUE, I WAS MISS EDUCATED, I HAD TO GO AND BE FURTHER EDUCATED ON MY HISTORY. IN MY HISTORY, WE HAVE THE CIVIL WAR AND THE FREEDMEN BUREAU. THE FREEDMEN BUREAU ACT OF 1865, THEY DIDN'T CALL IT THE NEGROES BUREAU ACT, THEY DID NOT CALL IT THE COLORED FREEDMEN BUREAU ACT, THEY DIDN'T CALL IT ANY OF THOSE THINGS, THEY CALLED US FREEDMEN. WHAT HAPPENED, WHY WERE WE NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED AS FREEDMEN AFTER THAT. WHAT IS AMAZING, IS THAT THERE ARE TOWNS CALLED FREEDMEN. HERE IN MASSACHUSETTS IN MY RESEARCH, I FOUND THE FIRST WOMAN WHOSE STATUS FROM SLAVERY TO CITIZENSHIP, HER NAME WAS MOM BED. SHE LEGALLY CHANGED HER NAME TO ELIZABETH FREEDMEN, AND THERE IS A STATUE OF HER IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS. I THINK THESE THINGS ARE REALLY BEAUTIFUL, LIKE REALLY REALLY POWERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL OF OUR HISTORY. CLEARLY, WHEN I SPEAK TO PEOPLE, I HAVE CONVERSATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY. WHEN I TALK WITH FREEDMEN, MIKE DID YOU KNOW THAT THE ANCESTORS CALLED THEMSELVES FREEDMEN. SO MANY SAY NO, I HAD NO IDEA. IN CONVERSATION, I MIGHT DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE A FREEDMEN, WE ARE FREEDMEN, LIKE THIS IS (MIC CUT OUT). WHEN THE WORLD IS SAYING TO US, AND WE HAVE SOMETHING LIKE DIASPORA IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY, BUT THERE SAYING WHO ARE YOU. THAT IS BLACK AMERICANS, LIKE WE ARE BLACK, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE ARE BLACK. THAT IS HOW SUCCESSFUL RACE-BASED IDEOLOGY HAS BEEN FROM OUR GOVERNMENT. OUR GOVERNMENT IS SAYING YOU CAN'T BE RACIST, YOU CAN'T PUSH RACE-BASED IDEOLOGY BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPHOLDS RACE-BASED IDEOLOGY. IT TRACKS US BY RACE. SO WHEN YOU LOOK AT FEDERAL CENSUS AND THERE IS HISPANIC/LATINO, THERE IS ASIAN/A API, THERE IS NATIVE AMERICAN, THEN THERE IS WHITES, THEN THERE IS BLACKS/AFRICAN-AMERICAN. THIS IS A VERY TWO-WAY CONVERSATION, THIS IS - WHY ARE YOU CALLING YOURSELF WHITES? YOU ARE A HUMAN BEING WITH WHITE PRIVILEGE. YOU HAVE ANCESTORS, YOU HAVE LINEAGE, YOU HAVE HOMELAND WITH SOVEREIGNTY, THE SAME THING THAT I'M ADVOCATING FOR IS THE SAME THING YOU HAVE. I'M ASKING YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE ME IN THE SAME LIGHT THAT YOU HAVE, NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS. SO WHY - IF YOU'RE NOT RACIST, WHY ARE YOU ACKNOWLEDGING YOURSELF AS WHITE. THERE IS SO MUCH MORE IN THIS CONVERSATION, WE HAVE TO GO ABOUT ANTIRACISM, AND IT IS VERY VERY NECESSARY BECAUSE THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, ID I CAN'T CHANGE THE STRUCTURE UNTIL THERE IS POLICIES IN PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER IDENTIFYING AS WHITE. WHAT ARE THE OTHER AREAS THAT THEY'RE GOING TO IDENTIFY AND AS BLACK PEOPLE, WHAT ARE THEY ARE THERE AREAS THAT ARE GOING TO BE IDENTIFYING IN? BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TRACK EQUITY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE HAVE TO HAVE WAYS TO TRACK TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE THAT WE ARE REACHING EQUITY WITHIN THIS TOWN. WHAT IS THE METHODOLOGY THAT IS GOING TO OCCUR? I'M SAYING THAT THIS CAMP, WE ARE NOT GOING TO MOVE ANY FURTHER IN OUR RACIAL CONVERSATIONS IF WE DON'T START ACKNOWLEDGING AMERICAN FREEDMEN. THIS CONVERSATION A BLACK, BLACK, BLACK, BLACK IS NOT GOING TO MOVE ANY FURTHER. THE WORD IS TODAY, WE ARE STUCK, WE ARE AT A STANDSTILL UNTIL WE ACKNOWLEDGE AMERICAN FREEDMEN. THAT IS THE FIRST ONE. TWO, PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. HERE IS WHERE WE HAVE A LOT OF LIBERTY, THIS IS WHERE WE GET TO HAVE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, THIS IS WHERE WE GET TO PILOT SOME THINGS OUT AND TEST SOME THINGS OUT, THEN WE CAN SAY HEY, THIS WORKS, THAT PART DIDN'T WORK. IT CONSTANTLY INVOLVES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND THE THINGS THAT I REALIZED GOING INTO THAT BUGS CONFERENCES THAT WE HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE ALREADY DOING COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT. WE GIVE OUT LIKE \$1 MILLION, ONCE A YEAR OR TWICE A YEAR IN THE PUBLIC HOUSE TO VOTE ON THE MONEY. RIGHT? WE ALREADY HAVE METHODS IN WHICH WE ARE ENGAGING FOR THE PUBLIC. I THINK WE ARE GOING TO BE REALLY REALLY GREAT AT PROVIDING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, AND IF THERE IS CONCERNS ABOUT THE COST OF THIS, I HAVE DONE LEGWORK BECAUSE I WAS LIKE, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR NOTHING, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY NO TO THIS. I DID RESEARCH, I SPOKE WITH A PROFESSOR AT HARVARD LAW WHO HAS REPARATIONS ACADEMIC TASK FORCE, AND HE SAID THAT IT FIRST OF ALL, I WAS MEETING WITH HIM TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS LANGUAGE WOULD PASS THE SUPREME COURT. I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT IT WAS STRONG ENOUGH THAT IF IT WAS CONTESTED, IT WOULD BE SUPPORTED AND HE SAID YES, THIS DOES PASS THE STANDARDS FOR THE SUPREME COURT, HE BELIEVES ANY LEGAL ARGUMENTS IT WOULD SURPASS IT THAT IS ONE BECAUSE I REALIZE HOW ADVANCED THIS IS. TWO, HE SAID IF WE ACTUALLY DID THIS, IF WE ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGED AMERICAN FREEDMEN AND THE LOSS OF CURRENCY, THAT WE WOULD HAVE HIS TASK FORCE AT OUR DISPOSAL.

(MIC CUT OUT). I DO HAVE MORE IDEAS ABOUT WAYS TO KEEP THAT LOW COST, BUT I CAN TALK TO THE CITY MANAGER ABOUT THAT I DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT NOW, BUT I DO HAVE OTHER IDEAS AROUND THAT THAT IS THE PROPOSED SOLUTION, TO NAME THE HARM. THEN AN IMMEDIATE VISION, IMMEDIATE VISION IS TO SUPPORT AN AMERICAN FREEDMEN COMMISSION AND AN ORDINANCE IN YOUR TOWN. THEN TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY BY BUILDING SAFE SPACES TO LEARN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. I JUST - YOU KNOW, AFTER I DID THE FIRST PRESENTATION TO THE CIVIC UNITY COMMITTEE, JUST GOT BUSY AND I HAVE BEEN HOLDING UP SPACE AT THE DEMOCRACY CENTER. WHAT I REALIZED, I REALIZED A LOT OF THINGS BUT ONE IS THAT A REPARATION IS CLUB IS EXISTING TUESDAYS AT 6 P.M. ONE OF THE THINGS I REALIZE, IS I'M A REAL NERD, CLEARLY, I AM STUDYING POLICY, I'M STUDYING LAW EVERY TIME, AND NOT BEING PAID FOR THIS, THIS IS A FREE LABOR. NOT EVERYBODY IS INTO THIS THE WAY I'M INTO IT. WE ARE GOING TO BE WAY MORE CREATIVE IN OUR APPROACH, BUT WE JUST MOVED INTO IT IMMEDIATELY AND WE SAID LET'S JUST HOLD AN HOUR AT THE DEMOCRACY CENTER, IT WAS THAT SIMPLE. TO DO THIS. I DON'T WANT FOR YOU, I WANTED YOU TO HAVE AN EXAMPLE SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK THAT THIS IS SO FAR-FETCHED. IT'S NOT, IT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE. TO SUPPORT AN AMERICAN FREEDMEN COMMISSION, SUPPORT THE ORDINANCE, LET IT BE PERMANENT, LET IT BE A CONVERSATION, LET THE DESCENDENTS OF CHILD SLAVERY WITHIN THE U.S. LET THEM LEARN ABOUT THEIR HISTORY. YES, YOU ARE A FREEDMEN. YOU ARE A DESCENDENT AND YOU BUILD A FREEDMEN'S BUREAU, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WAS A RACIAL OR IN OUR HISTORY BOOKS WITHIN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE THAT THIS CHAPTER HAS NOT BEEN TAUGHT. I WENT AND MET WITH OUR REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN OWENS, I MET WITH HIM. HE SAID THAT THERE IS FUNDING FOR US, THERE'S EDUCATIONAL FUNDING FOR US TO DO THIS, THAT LEGALLY SPEAKING, THIS COULD FALL UNDERNEATH GENOCIDE. THERE IS A FUND IN MASSACHUSETTS, THIS HAS ALREADY PASSED, THERE IS A FUND TO TEACH GENOCIDE. IF WE DECIDE TO TEACH GENOCIDE, WE COULD INCLUDE THE FREEDMEN GENOCIDE WITHIN THERE. WHEN IT COMES TO FUNDING FOR OUR EDUCATION, I HAD BEEN SCOUTING LIKE WHERE'S THE MONEY GOING TO COME FROM BECAUSE THAT IS MY NUMBER ONE ARGUMENT THAT I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO HERE'S THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO SUPPORT THIS COMMISSION. THE WORK THAT IT'S GOING TO NEED TO DO. I WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE, I WANT TO FIELD THOSE ISSUES AHEAD OF TIME TO LET YOU KNOW I HAVE DONE THE RESEARCH, WE HAVE THE FUNDS, THAT IS NOT AN ISSUE. IT'S ALREADY PAST, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE THINGS. WE ARE GOOD ON THAT AND. I BELIEVE THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT THING I JUST WANT TO SHARE THAT IS PERSONAL, IS THAT YOU DON'T REALIZE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS, AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THAT BY

DOING MY ADVOCACY WORK, I HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER THAT HAS BEEN SUICIDAL AND IN DOING MY ADVOCACY WORK, THEY ACKNOWLEDGED, THEY SAID I'M NOT SUICIDAL ANYMORE BECAUSE I HAVE LEARNED I'M AMERICAN FREEDMEN. BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, AM ACKNOWLEDGING THAT I HAVE HAD GENERATIONS OF BEING HUNTED BY WHITE SUPREMACY. I HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAKE MYSELF OUT OF THIS EARTH, THAT IF I WANT TO BE OPPOSITIONAL, THAT I'M GOING TO BE OPPOSITIONAL TO WHITE SUPREMACY BY LIVING. THE WHOLE FRAMEWORK HAS CHANGED BY ME DOING THIS WORK. SO WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR CHILDREN WHEN YOU TELL THEM, YOU'RE NOT JUST A DESCENDENT OF SLAVERY, THAT YOU EXISTED BEFORE SLAVERY, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PSYCHOLOGY, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DEPRESSION (MIC CUT OUT). WHEN YOU ARE ACTUALLY BEING TAUGHT, FURTHER EDUCATION BEYOND THE COLONIZATION OF INTERNAL ISLAND. I THINK THESE ARE THINGS WE HAVE TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH IF WE ARE TALKING THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN AND REALLY CARING ABOUT HOW THEY PERCEIVE THEMSELVES IN THIS WORLD, AND WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF. SORRY TO INTERRUPT. > DO WE HAVE TIME? IS THAT TOO MUCH? > YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME AND I COULD LISTEN TO YOU ALL DAY BUT COUNCILOR SIMMONS HAS TO LEAVE UNDER WANT TO MAKE SURE SHE IS A PART OF THE VOTE. I WILL GO TO COUNCILOR SIMMONS TO MAKE A MOTION.

>> Councilor Simmons: THANK YOU CHAIR ZONDERVAN. FIRST OF ALL, THIS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION SO I APOLOGIZE WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO HAVE TO LEAVE EARLY, BUT I BELIEVE, TRULY IN MY HEART, THAT WE ARE NOT ONLY READY, BUT PREPARED TO DO THIS WORK, AND COMMITTED TO DO THIS WORK, NOT ONLY DISCOUNTS OF THE COUNCILS THAT ARE GOING TO FOLLOW US. AS YOU KNOW, WE WILL HAVE THREE NEW MEMBERS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO PUT ON - GET ON BOARD AND AM COMMITTED AS ONE OF THE COUNCILORS THAT WILL BE ABLE TO STAY TO MAKE SURE THIS GOES FORWARD. JUST TO BE SURE, I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THAT WE SEND THIS PROPOSAL OVER TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION SO THE WORK CONTINUES. > THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.> COUNCILOR SIMMONS MOTION TO SEND THIS TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO PASS THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED IN THE POLICY ORDER TO A SECOND READING.

COUNCILOR AZEEM

>>> COUNCILOR AZEEM?

>>> Councilor Azeem: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR CARLONE?

>>> Councilor Carlone: YES.

>>> VICE MAYOR MALLON?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR MCGOVERN?

>>> Councilor McGovern: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR NOLAN?

>>> Councilor Nolan: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR SIMMONS?

>>> Councilor Simmons: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR TONER?

ABSENT. > COUNCILOR ZONDERVAN? >>> Councilor Zondervan: YES. > MAYOR SIDDIQUI? > Mayor Siddiqui: YES. > MR CHAIR, YOU HAVE SEVEN MEMBERS WHO HAVE VOTED YES AND TWO MEMBERS ARE ABSENT.>>> THANK YOU MADAM CLERK. THANK YOU, COUNCILOR SIMMONS.WOW. [CLAPPING] >> THANK YOU, WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE APPLAUSE, BUT THANK YOU.I WILL GO BACK TO YOU.>>> I'M TRYING NOT TO CRY RIGHT NOW, I'VE BEEN CRYING A LOT. THIS WORK IS VERY EMOTIONAL. THIS SLIDE IS JUST AN EXAMPLE OF REPARATIVE JUSTICE BASED PROGRAM, MY ORGANIZATION THAT I STARTED, IN MY RESEARCH I FOUND THE UNITED STATES WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT VOTED THAT GROWING FOOD IS NOT A HUMAN RIGHT. THAT IS WHERE THIS FLYER CAME FROM BECAUSE THE ORGANIZATION IS CALLED GROW TO CONSUME AND WE LITERALLY FOCUS ON GIVING OUT SEEDS, AND ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO GROW THE ROOM FOOD AND WE JUST GOT A GRANT FOR THE GROWERS RESOURCE LIBRARY SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HAVE GROW TENSE AND GROW LIGHTS IN THEIR HOUSE SINCE LAND IS NOT ACCESSIBLE.WHEN I ORIGINALLY DID THE SLIDE, WE SET BLACK PEOPLE BECAUSE BLACK PEOPLE DON'T KNOW AMERICAN FREEDMEN, THEY DON'T KNOW THIS LANGUAGE. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE CHANGED, WE DID PUBLIC TALKS, WE HAD TALKS, AND CHANGED OUR LANGUAGE SO THAT EVEN THIS FLYER HAS CHANGED, WE ARE NOT IDENTIFYING PEOPLE AS BLACK ON OUR FLYER NOW. NOW WE ARE SITTING AMERICAN FREEDMEN AND ALL PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HARMED BY THE RACIAL CASTE SYSTEM. SO THIS IS LANGUAGE THAT I'M ACTIVELY LEARNING. IT IS, THIS IS WHERE I'M LIKE I NEED MY CITY, HE NEED MY CITY TO SUPPORT BECAUSE I NEED LANGUAGE SUPPORT AS WELL IN DOING THIS WORK.HOW ARE WE GETTING AWAY FROM IDENTIFYING PEOPLE JUST BY SKIN COLOR, BUT STEPPING IN THE CELEBRATION OF CULTURAL PRACTICES AND HERITAGE.YOU ARE A HUMAN BEING, YOU HAVE CULTURAL PRACTICES AND HERITAGE, WE NEED TO HONOR THESE THINGS. I BELIEVE THAT IS POSSIBLE, THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE. I'M VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT MY 40 ACRES (MIC CUT OUT). I CARE ABOUT MY FOOD, WE ARE DEALING WITH MALNUTRITION IN OUR COMMUNITIES, THE TOPSOIL, I CARE ABOUT THIS, I CARE ABOUT MY EARTH. IT'S BEEN 100 YEARS SINCE AMERICAN FREEDMEN LEFT THE FIELD, IN THAT TIME WE LOST 80 PERCENT OF OUR TOPSOIL JUST LIKE THIS GROUPS OF PEOPLE THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE, YOU KNOW, METAL AND WORK WITH METAL, WHITE AMERICA WAS SEEING, Y'ALL GOT TECH CALMLY YOU GOT THAT BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE CARING OF THE EARTH, WHO WAS WORKING OUR FIELDS. WHEN YOU GO TO COTON, WHEN YOU GO TO LOOK AT YOUR CLOTHES, WHY DO WE NOT HAVE ANY COTTON THAT IS BEING PRODUCED BY AMERICAN FREEDMEN. THIS IS LIKE REALLY REALLY STRANGE TO ME, WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE THAT ARE EXPERTS AT SOMETHING, LIKE EXPERTS AT SOMETHING AND THEY ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO PRACTICE WHAT THEY ARE AN EXPERT AT. THIS IS INTENTIONAL, THIS IS OPPRESSION. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT, AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE BICKERING, TO BE HONEST, BECAUSE THE EARTH IS AT STAKE. I AM GOING TO BE VERY, ALWAYS ADAMANT ABOUT MY 40 ACRES BECAUSE I HAVE GOOD TROUBLE TO GET INTO TO SAVE OUR EARTH, LITERALLY.THIS IS THE POINT WE ARE AT IN SOCIETY. I THINK IT IS REALLY REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE HAS BEEN HARMED, DISCONNECT FROM LAND FOR AMERICAN FREEDMEN THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONNECT TO OUR LAND OUTSIDE OF COLONIALISM, THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, WE WERE FORCED INTO AN EXTRACT OF ECONOMY. AMERICAN FREEDMEN, WE WERE FORCED INTO NEXT ACTIVE COLONY SINCE AMERICANIZATION. I BELIEVE IF WE WERE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE OUR INDIGENOUS PRACTICES, YOU WOULD SEE US DO REGENERATIVE PRACTICES WITH OUR EARTHWORK BECAUSE THAT IS IN ALIGNMENT WITH OUR ANCESTORS.THIS IS AN EXAMPLE THAT I WANTED TO

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SHOW YOU, THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES, MANY AREAS OF HARM, IT'S VERY SPECIFIC IN THE MISSION THAT YOU GUYS PAST. WE CAN GO TO THE NEXT SLIDE BUT I ALSO JUST WANTED TO ASK, CITYWIDE TRAINING. I BELIEVE THIS IS REALLY REALLY NECESSARY ON TRANSITIONAL REPARATIVE JUSTICE, THIS IS JUST A PRESENTATION. I BELIEVE THE WHOLE CITY NEEDS FOR IN-DEPTH TRAINING ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. BELIEVE YOU GUYS NEED THE SAME UNREPAIRED OF JUSTICE, I BELIEVE REPARATIVE JUSTICE IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION. LET ME SAY THAT YOU CAN HIT GOOGLE, LOOK THAT UP, THAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT. I BELIEVE YOU GUYS NEED CITYWIDE TRAINING ON THIS MATTER, LIKE A FULL DAY WORKSHOP, LIKE FOUR HOURS, LEARNING IN Q&A AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE, I THINK YOU GUYS REALLY DO NEED THAT IN YOUR POCKET. YOU NEED TO BE JOINING STATEWIDE CONVERSATIONS FOR THE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. THERE IS A NATIONAL REPARATIONS GROUP CALLED SOLIDARITY THAT IS FOUNDER IS ANTONIA EDWARDS. I LEARNED A LOT THROUGH SOLIDARITY, IN THIS GROUP, THEY BEEN WORKING WITH CALIFORNIA, THEY BEEN WORKING WITH NEW YORK, THEY WORK IN SEVERAL OTHER STATES DOING THIS WORK. THEY HAVE A WHOLE HOST OF HISTORY ON AMERICAN FREEDMEN, REALLY FORCING YOU TO LOOK AT PICTURES PREDIAGNOSED, THIS IS AN INTERNMENT CAMP FOR AMERICAN FREEDMEN, YOU'RE LIKE WAIT, I NEVER THOUGHT TO APPLY THAT TO BLACK BODIES. THESE, YOU'RE LITERALLY UNPACKING WHEN YOU'RE SITTING AND GOING THROUGH LESSONS WITH THIS GROUP. YOU'RE LITERALLY UNPACKING INTERNALIZED RACISM WHERE WORDS THAT ARE ONLY USED TOWARDS WHITE BODIES ARE NOW BEING APPLIED TO BLACK BODIES. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT, I THINK, THAT WE HAVE THIS SORT OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE AT OUR DISPOSAL, AND WORKING WITH LOCAL GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS IN THAT. THERE IS A STATE BILL AS WELL TO, STATE BILL H3921 THAT RECOGNIZES AMERICAN FREEDMEN, AND THAT BILL, I BELIEVE THE BILL IS STRONG ENOUGH TO PASS THE SUPREME COURT IF IT WAS CHALLENGED. THERE'S ANOTHER BILL THAT BY (NAME) OAKLEY BY THE OTHER BILL BY SENATOR LIZ MIRANDA, THAT BILL IS NOT. I DO NOT MENTION THAT BILL BECAUSE IT IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PASS THE SUPREME COURT. WE WILL SEE WHAT THEY REFILE OR NEXT YEAR. THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT IS NECESSARY. NORTH SHORE, I HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO SPEAK WITH SALEM WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE IN CAMBRIDGE IS SPARKING OTHER TOWN INTEREST. I'M ON TEAM US. IF WE ARE DOING SOMETHING HERE IN CAMBRIDGE, LET'S GET NORTH SHORE, SALEM, SO MAYOR SIDDIQUI, IF YOU ARE MAYOR, YOU'RE WORKING WITH THE MAYOR IN NORTH SHORE, THE MAYOR IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH SHORE, THE MAYOR IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, YOU GUYS ARE A WHOLE GROUP THAT ARE LEADING A CONVERSATION. WHEN IT COMES TO THE CITY OF BOSTON, THEY HAD DELINEATED OUT THE SEPARATION OF AMERICAN FREEDMEN FROM OTHER DESCENDENTS OF CHILDHOOD SLAVERY. THEY KEPT IT GENERAL, NOW THEY ARE EXPLORING HARM AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH, WHICH MEANS THAT THEY HAVE LEFT THEIR JURISDICTION. I'M NOT CERTAIN WHERE THAT IS GOING TO GO YET, AND THAT IS MY CONCERN, IS THAT ONCE YOU LEAVE THE JURISDICTION AND YOU ARE ACKNOWLEDGING HARM OUTSIDE, HOW CAN YOU HOLD THAT CITY ACCOUNTABLE FOR HARM THAT HAPPENED IN JAMAICA, FOR HARM THAT HAPPENED ON THIS ISLAND, HOW CAN YOU HOLD THE CITY ACCOUNTABLE, THIS IS A FEDERAL CONVERSATION AT THIS POINT. I'M NOT TOO CERTAIN, AND I'M STILL THINKING OF OTHER WAYS BECAUSE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE ISN'T JUST FOR AMERICAN FREEDMEN, IT IS FOR OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I'M STILL TRYING TO FIND THE PROPER LANGUAGE TO IDENTIFY AND I HAVEN'T BEEN SUCCESSFUL. (MIC CUT OUT). IT IS FOR EVERYBODY COMMENTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, I WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THAT AND I THINK THE MORE WE GET COMFORTABLE WITH IT, I DO THINK PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE EXPLORING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE FOR A LOT OF THE ISSUES WE ARE FACING IN THIS CONVERSATION. YOU'RE GOING TO REALIZE THAT CIVIL RIGHTS WAS A BAND-AID

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TO SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES SURGICAL REPAIR. THAT TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE CAN BE THAT PRECISE THAT WE ACTUALLY NEED. IT IS GOING TO REQUIRE EDUCATION, I'M REALLY CONCERNED, I WANT OUR CHILDREN TO BE EDUCATED IN THIS, PEOPLE GROW UP. THEY BECOME CITY COUNCILORS, OUR CHILDREN DESERVE TO BE EDUCATED IN THIS SO WHEN I'M IN MY ELDER YEARS, I FEEL SAFER BECAUSE I KNOW I'M WITH THE CITY COUNCIL THAT IS EDUCATED AND THEY WANT THIS AND IT'S NORMALIZED. I THINK THAT IS IT. IS THERE ONE MORE SLIDE? SORRY. THIS IS, I WON'T GO THROUGH ANYMORE SLIDES BECAUSE YOU ALREADY VOTED. I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT. THESE ARE THE OTHER THINGS THAT I ADVOCATE IN HERE, PERMANENT RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN FREEDMEN, WHY WE DO RAISE IN OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, I THINK THAT YOU GUYS SHOULD BE, THE ELDERS SAY WHEN YOU .1 FINGER, THERE'S THREE POINTING BACK AT YOU. IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS SAYING YOU CAN'T USE RACE, YOU CAN'T USE RACE, HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE. SUE THEM. THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE PUSHING RACE DOWN OUR THROATS, YET IF THEY TAKE IT AWAY, WHAT IS THE METRICS, WHAT IS THE METHODOLOGY TO BE IDENTIFYING EQUITY BY BECAUSE THEY WILL BE QUICK TO TAKE AWAY, YOU ARE RIGHT. TAKE IT AWAY. BUT THEN YOU HAVE NO METRICS TO GAUGE EQUITY AT THAT POINT. YOU CAN'T JUST ADVOCATE TO TAKE IT AWAY AND NOT HAVE SOMETHING ALREADY IN ITS PLACE. I BELIEVE THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF TRYING TO BUILD SOMETHING IN ITS PLACE, A DIFFERENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN ITS PLACE THAT WILL BE MORE SPECIFIC. SOMETHING ALSO THAT IN MY READINGS, I FOUND THE UNITED NATIONS TO ADVOCATE FOR, THE UNITED STATES NEEDS MORE SPECIFICITY IN ITS METRICS ON WHO BLACK PEOPLE ARE IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY WANTED TO SEE WAY MORE DETAILS. IN DOING THIS WORK, THAT WE HAVE THAT CAMBRIDGE, HOUSING, THERE WAS A BLACK CAMBRIDGE REPORT. IN THAT DATA IT ONLY RECOGNIZES YOU BY U.S. BORN OR FOREIGN BORN. VERY WEIRD, VERY WEIRD THIS REPORT WAS, COMPLETELY INSUFFICIENT. WE HAVE TO GO AROUND. WE CAN'T DO THIS. WE HAVE TO REALLY ACKNOWLEDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR ETHNICITY AND REALLY ACKNOWLEDGE BECAUSE THERE ARE SPECIFIC HARMS WHERE PEOPLE ARE COMING FROM AND THIS IMPACT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PROGRAMS FOR MONDAY COMING OVER. THERE IS A CERTAIN CLASS OF PEOPLE THAT IS COMING OVER HERE VERSUS ALL THESE THINGS THAT ARE INFLUENCING. WE CAN'T ASSUME NECESSARY THAT IT IS JUST BECAUSE OF INSTITUTIONAL RACISM, THERE CAN BE OTHER THINGS, WHY IS THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE DOING BETTER, IS IT BECAUSE THERE IS A PROGRAM, WHY DON'T WE IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAM HERE. HOW CAN WE ADVOCATE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, THIS IS VERY COMPLEX CONVERSATION. I THINK THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING, AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN GET THROUGH. TO DO THIS, I'M VERY EXCITED, AND TRYING NOT TO CRY RIGHT NOW SO I'M GOING TO STOP HERE BECAUSE YOU GUYS VOTED AND I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU, IN DOING THIS WORK. I WILL SPEND MY LAST PENNY DOING THIS AND I HAVE CRIED SO MANY NIGHTS DOING THIS WORK, TO SEE THIS NOT BEING REJECTED, TO SEE THAT THIS IS WELCOME, MY ANCESTORS THANK YOU, MY FAMILY THANKS YOU, THE GRAY HAIR ON THE SIDE OF MY HEAD THEN Q. ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE I HAVE SPOKEN WITH, (MIC CUT OUT). ARE EXCITED, YOU KNOW THIS IS REALLY WHAT THEY WANTED BUT THEY SAID IT WAS TOO ADVANCED, THEY SAID THAT WE CAN'T JUST PUSH THIS, NOBODY WILL ACCEPT IT, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BEG, WE WILL PLEAD THROUGH A TASK FORCE TO GET THIS. I SAID I DON'T BELIEVE THAT, WE HAVE TO DO THAT IN CAMBRIDGE. I THINK WE CAN BE DIRECT, THINK WE CAN SPEAK CLEARLY AND I THINK WE CAN SKIP THAT PART TO GET TO THE HEART OF IT AND REALLY MOVE THE CONVERSATION FORWARD. I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR SHOWING UP. I PLACE THAT FAITH IN ALL OF YOU, YOU SHOWED UP AND YOU ARE DELIVERING, I HAVE SOME CALLS TO MAKE NOW TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHO ARE WORKING NATIONALLY, THAT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE IS JUMPING IN, AND YOU GUYS ARE

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ABSOLUTELY COMING IN BLAZING. HOLDING DEMOCRACY, IN ITS PLACE. THIS IS TRULY, I CAN'T STRESS TO YOU ENOUGH HOW HUGE THIS IS FOR US TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED OUTSIDE OF OUR RACE. IT IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CIVIL WAR WE ARE BEING ACKNOWLEDGED OUTSIDE OF OUR RACE. I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL THIS. > THANK YOU SO MUCH, THANK YOU FOR EDUCATING US AND FOR HOLDING US ACCOUNTABLE. FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS WAY. THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT, AND WE COULDN'T BE DOING IT WITHOUT YOU. THANK YOU FOR THAT. WE ARE GOING TO GO TO PUBLIC COMMENT, AND THEN WE WILL HAVE DISCUSSION WITH CITY STAFF AND YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY AS WELL. WE WILL GO TO LYDIA ECHOLS IN PUBLIC COMMENT. > LYDIA, I'M OVERWHELMED BY EVERYTHING THAT WAS PRESENTED BUT I WANTED TO SAY I SHOWED UP TO THE REPARATIONS CLUB AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. TO ME, ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS OF REPARATIONS ON THE MASSIVE PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECT, IN ITSELF IS REPARATIONS, IT IS THE FIRST STEP. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE, NOT JUST FREEDMEN, I THINK IT TAKES THE PLACE OF RACISM WORKSHOPS THAT TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR TREE, I THINK THAT IT ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDS HISTORY FOR EVERYONE IS ESPECIALLY CRITIQUING THE NOTION OF RACE, THAT, TO ME, IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT THIS IS I HAVE ALWAYS FELT LIKE HOW DO YOU GET OUT OF THIS BIND WHERE RACE IS CONSTANTLY BEING REINFORCED IN THE NAME OF ADDRESSING RACISM, AND I THINK THIS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IS THE WAY TO TAKE APART THE NOTION OF RACE, IT'S AGAINST THE REDUCTIONISTIC THING OF COLOR THAT CONFLATES TOGETHER MASSIVELY DIFFERENT HISTORIES AND STATUSES AND I THINK IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF FREEDMEN THAT IS NOT SHARED BY ANYONE ELSE. I THINK IT IS AN INCREDIBLY CREATIVE PROCESS, I THINK THERE IS NO PER REASON WHY ALL THE UNIVERSITIES COULDN'T ACTUALLY INCORPORATE IT INTO THEIR CURRICULUM AS CROWDSOURCING. I THINK IT COULD BE A REALLY AMAZING PUBLIC PROJECT THAT WOULD BE RESTORATIVE FROM THE MOMENT IT STARTS. THANK YOU.>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, LYDIA. THAT IS EVERYBODY WHO IS SIGNED UP BUT IF ANYBODY HERE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK, LET ME KNOW.>>> GOOD AFTERNOON, MY NAME IS NAOMI JENSEN. I LIVE ON DANA STREET AND I WANTED TO CONGRATULATE (NAME) ON ALL THE HARD WORK SHE HAS DONE, SHE'S BEEN IN THE TRENCHES. I DON'T THINK PEOPLE UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH EMOTIONS, EMOTIONAL PAIN AND TIME, AND RESOURCES HAVE GONE INTO EVERYTHING SHE HAS DONE. I WANTED TO START OFF BY SAYING THANK YOU. TO THANK THE CITY COUNCIL FOR PASSING THIS AND MOVING ONTO THE NEXT STEP. THERE WERE TWO THINGS THAT CAME TO MIND AS I WAS LISTENING TO YOU, THE FIRST IS SUPREME COURT AND THE BREWING DECISION ABOUT GUN CONTROL, OR GUN ACCESS. THE PREMISE OF IT IS TO REVERT BACK TO WHEN WE ARE CONSIDERING LAWS ABOUT GUNS TO BE THINKING ABOUT HISTORICAL TRADITIONS. MAINLY THEY'RE DOING, LOOKING FOR THINGS, WHAT WERE THE FOUNDERS SAYING, WHAT WERE PEOPLE IN THE 1780S AND 1790S SAYING AND THINKING ABOUT GUNS. THAT LEADS ME TO THINK ABOUT THIS IDEA THAT WE NEED TO DIVORCE OURSELVES FROM THE FACT THAT THE FOUNDING OF THE COUNTRY AND THE WAY THAT THE COUNTRY WAS CONSTRUCTED, RACE WAS CENTRAL TO IT. IT IS ABSURD TO JUST IGNORE THAT. THEN I GUESS THE QUESTION IS, WHAT CAN I DO. THE THING THAT STRUCK ME, IS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW DESCENDENTS AS AMERICAN CHILD SLAVERY IS FREEDMEN, THERE'S AN EXPERIENCE THAT YOU HAVE AND YOU SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY. UNFORTUNATELY, COUNCILOR SIMMONS HAD TO LEAVE BUT I HAD A CONVERSATION WITH HER ABOUT SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND SHE WAS TELLING ME, IT REALLY BECAME ABOUT GENTRIFICATION AND SHE WAS TELLING ME HOW THERE WAS AN INDIVIDUAL, I THINK I HAVE TOLD COUNCILOR RECOVER THIS AS WELL BUT THERE WAS AN INDIVIDUAL IN CAMBRIDGE PORT WHO IS OVER 90 YEARS OLD, HIS FAMILY HAS BEEN IN THE SAME HOUSE FOR OVER

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100 YEARS AND THERE WAS A TREE THAT WAS GROWING AND THE ROOT UNDERMINES THE FOUNDATION OF HIS HOUSE SUCH THAT HE COULD NO LONGER GET INSURANCE ON HIS HOME. THE REACTION FROM PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, NOT EVERYBODY, BUT SAME PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, ONE OF THE BIG REACTIONS WAS TO SAY WE ARE GOING TO TIE OURSELVES TO THIS TREE UNDER NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS TREE DOWN. WHEN SHE WAS TELLING ME THIS STORY, IT HIT ME AND I WAS LIKE I'VE HAD THIS EXPERIENCE IN MY FAMILY IN NEW JERSEY, CALIFORNIA, I KNOW WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT AND THE IDEA ABOUT LOSS OF COMMUNITY, LAND IS NOT JUST GROWING FOOD, IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY SO I'M HOPING THAT AS THE TASK FORCE CONTINUES, A LOT OF, THERE'S A BIG INTERSECTION IN REGARDS TO GENTRIFICATION AND LAND IN COMMUNITY, HOW PEOPLE VALUE THAT LAND THAT THEY HAVE STRUGGLED TO HOLD ONTO FOR SO LONG. THEN HOW THEY SEE THE SPACE AROUND THEM, THAT CAN BE SOMETHING WE ARE THINKING ABOUT AS WE PROCEED. THANK YOU.>>> THANK YOU SO MUCH. ANYONE ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK? PLEASE COME TO THE MICROPHONE AND PUSH THE BUTTON UNTIL THE LIGHT TURNS GREEN.>>> THIS BUTTON HERE? MY NAME IS CELINE, I LIVE IN CAMBRIDGE. I REALLY LIKE YOUR ENERGY, AND I CAN APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK YOU PUT INTO THIS, BUT WHAT I SEE HAPPENING HERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE SEEN BEFORE MANY TIMES. THAT TO MAKE HONEST EFFORTS TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT IS BECAUSE WE ARE TRIPPING ON REALITY WITH METAPHORS INSTEAD OF FACTS, WE ARE BLOWN OUT OF THE CIRCLE. NUMBER TWO, I THINK THAT THIS REPARATION IS NOT HAPPENING IN A VACUUM BECAUSE WE ARE NOT THE ONLY STAKEHOLDERS IN DISCUSSION, WE LIVE IN A NATION OF 300 MILLION PEOPLE WHICH ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE ARE US. THE IMPACT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED ON BOTH SIDES. (MIC CUT OUT). BECAUSE I DON'T THINK, I THINK WERE NOT GOING TO ACCOMPLISH - IT'S NOT GOING TO ACCOMPLISH, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOAL WITHOUT FIRST LOCATING DESCENDENTS ON A MAP OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY. I DON'T THINK THAT IS HAPPENING BECAUSE YOU HAVE FREEDMEN FROM (NAME) TO THE YUKON, AMERICAN FREEDMEN. THERE IS NO NATION IN AMERICA, AMERICA ITSELF IS A METAPHOR. AFRICAN-AMERICANS MODIFY THE METAPHOR. UNTIL WE BEGIN TO INTERPRET OUR REALITY WITH FACTS, WE WILL KEEP DOING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE 1865. >>> THANK YOU. SO THAT CONCLUDES PUBLIC COMMENTS, NOW WE WILL HAVE QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION, THE CITY STAFF ARE HERE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AS WELL AS MS. JAMES. COUNCILOR MCGOVERN?>>> Councilor McGovern: THANK YOU MR CHAIR, YOU THANKED US, BUT I WANT TO THANK YOU. YOU AND I HAVE HAD A FEW BREAKFASTS OVER AT DONUT VILLA OVER THE LAST YEAR, AND I ALWAYS CAME AWAY, LEARNING SOMETHING, THINKING DIFFERENTLY ABOUT SOMETHING. IMPRESSED WITH NOT JUST YOUR PASSION, BUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND WE SAW THAT TODAY IN THIS PRESENTATION. YOU MADE IT, YOU CAN THANK US, BUT YOU MADE IT EASY IN A LOT OF WAYS TO SUPPORT THIS WORK BECAUSE OF ALL THE INTERNAL WORK YOU HAVE DONE AND THE LEADERSHIP THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN. I JUST REALLY WANTED TO THANK YOU PUBLICLY FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, THE OTHER PART OF THE WORK THAT YOU'RE DOING AROUND FOOD INSECURITY, ONE IN EIGHT PEOPLE IN CAMBRIDGE GO HUNGRY, THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE IN A CITY LIKE OURS. WE DO HAVE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NUMBER OF PLOTS ARE, BUT I KNOW WE HAVE A COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM IN THE CITY WHERE WE GIVE CITY LAND TO RESIDENT WHO GROW FOOD, WE HAVE NOT EVALUATED THAT PROGRAM IN A WHILE, IT WAS MEANT THAT PEOPLE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE THAT LAND FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME AND NOW YOU HAVE DISTRICT PEOPLE THAT HAVE HAD IT FOR TEN + YEARS, SO MAYBE IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT PROGRAM, AND HOW TO REALLOCATE THOSE, THAT CITY LAND DIFFERENTLY. TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND SUPPORT THE KIND OF THINGS THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, AND THAT YOU'RE DOING. AGAIN, I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU PUBLICLY, AND THANK

YOU PRIVATELY, NOT PUBLICLY BUT THIS WAS VERY - ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMPLEXITIES OF ALL THIS, AS YOU PEEL THE ONION BACK, IT IS JUST MORE AND MORE COMPLEX. I THINK I HAVE SAID OFTEN, AND I THINK ONE OF OUR MAJOR CHALLENGES IN CAMBRIDGE WHEN IT COMES TO TALKING ABOUT RACE, RACISM, AND WHITE PRIVILEGE, WHAT HAVE YOU, IS THAT IN CAMBRIDGE WE DON'T THINK THOSE ARE ISSUES WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH HERE, WE THINK WE ARE THE PEOPLE'S PUBLIC, WE ARE ABOVE THAT AND WE ARE NOT. ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO EDUCATE PEOPLE, AND HIGHLIGHT THOSE CONVERSATIONS, AND PUSH THAT AGENDA FORWARD IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO DO. THANK YOU FOR DOING THAT, AND THANK YOU FOR DIGGING IN SO PASSIONATELY ABOUT THIS, AND PUSHING US FORWARD. THANK YOU. >>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR, WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THE COMMUNITY GARDENS BECAUSE WE ARE DOING SOME WORK THROUGH GREEN CAMBRIDGE ON THAT VARIATION. COUNCILOR NOLAN? >> Councilor Nolan: THANK YOU, I CAN CERTAINLY ECHO WHAT EVERYONE HAS SAID BEFORE, INCLUDING COUNCILOR MCGOVERN OF APPRECIATING THE VAST EDUCATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO EVEN UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS THAT WE NEED TO DO THIS, AND THAT IS, PROVIDED THAT SO CLEARLY HERE. (MIC CUT OUT). STANDING, REPARATIONS IS LITERALLY TO REPAIR A HARM THAT HAPPENED, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, I BELIEVE THE COUNCIL A WHILE AGO, I WORKED WITH COUNCILOR SIMMONS AND COUNCILOR ZONDERVAN ON WORKING ON POLICY ORDER THAT LED TO REPARATIONS THAT HE THINK EVENTUALLY MORPHED INTO AND LEANED INTO THIS AND I BELIEVE I FIRST MET (NAME) TALKING ABOUT FARMS AND CANNABIS, WE HAD A PRIVATE CONVERSATION ABOUT THAT ON ZOOM. AS A LONGTIME SUPPORTER OF SAUL FIRE FARM, YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THAT IN NEW YORK THAT IS AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY WORKING SPECIFICALLY TO RECLAIM THE LAND AND TO WORK, AND NO COUPLE OF PEOPLE THAT WORK THERE AND HOW THEY WERE INTRODUCED TO IT, THEY'RE DOING THIS KIND OF WORK AND IN THAT, I KNOW IS A MODEL FROM THE WORK AROUND ECO-CULTURE HERE TO RECLAIM AND UNDERSTAND THE ROLE THAT FREEDMEN AND OTHER INDIGENOUS BLACK AND BROWN RESIDENCE IN MASSACHUSETTS CAN LEARN FROM, SO IT IS QUITE EXCITING TO SEE THAT WOVEN INTO THIS AS WELL. AS COUNCILOR ZONDERVAN MENTIONED, CAMBRIDGE CITY GROWERS AND OTHERS ARE RECLAIMING LITTLE BITS OF LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. I'M GRATEFUL, I'M INTERESTED IN HOW IT IS THAT WE CAN MOVE THIS FORWARD, REMEMBER THIS IS ONE STEP AND IT'S VERY EXCITING BUT THERE'S A COUPLE OF OTHER STEPS, I HAD A COUPLE OF OTHER QUESTIONS AND I RAISED THIS BEFORE, I UNDERSTAND THAT TERMINOLOGY MATTERS, NAMES MATTER, WORDS MATTER, AND THERE'S A REASON TO USE FREEDMEN, BUT IS ALSO GENDER SPECIFIC, WHICH IS NOT MEANT TO BE, IT'LL ONLY BE GENDER SPECIFIC BUT I'M VERY INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM YOU HOW IT IS THAT WE CAN ENSURE THAT IF WE ENSHRINED THE NAME FREED MAN INTO THIS, THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT ONLY LIMITED TO MEN, AS OPPOSED TO USING SOME OTHER TERMINOLOGY. THAT IS THE QUESTION FOR YOU THAT I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR AND ANSWER FOR BECAUSE I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR COMMUNITY SO THAT IS NOT MISINTERPRETED THAT WE ARE USING AN ANTIQUATED TERM THAT IS SOMETHING WE MOVE FORWARD TO TAKE GENDER OUT OF CERTAIN THINGS, I KNOW OUR CITY CHARTER HAS GENDER SPECIFIC TERMS AND WE ARE GOING TO TAKE THOSE OUT BECAUSE IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE, IS NOT INCLUSIVE OR WELCOMING. I'M CURIOUS HOW IT IS AS WE CAN ENSURE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING EVEN IF THE TERM IS FREED MAN. >> I THINK THE WAY TO DO THAT, IS TO ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION, LET IT GO THROUGH PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS AS PART OF ADDRESSING HARM FROM THAT COMMUNITY AND ALLOWING THAT COMMUNITY TO NAME THE HARMS AND ALLOWING THAT COMMUNITY TO BE EDUCATED ON THEIR HISTORY AND LET THEM KNOW THAT THIS IS HOW YOUR ANCESTORS IDENTIFIED, AND LETTING THEM SIT WITH THAT AND SEE, DOES THAT - DO YOU ALIGN WITH YOUR

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ANCESTORS. I THINK THAT AS A CITY COUNCIL, IN YOUR POSITION, YOU'RE IN A VERY POWERFUL POSITION AND IN YOUR POSITION OF POWER, IT'S TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY AND ARE BEING HISTORICALLY OPPRESSED, HOW WE DECIDE TO NAME OURSELVES IS FOR US, AND YOU TO SUPPORT. THIS NAME COMES FROM OUR ANCESTORS, WE FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR AND WE ONE IN THE CIVIL WAR, THIS IS SO FUNNY, I SAY THIS TO PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, WHEN WE HAVE THE PLANTATIONS, THE WOMEN WERE OUT THERE JUST LIKE THE MEN WITH THE BABIES ON OUR BACK, OR STRAPPED TO OUR BREAST FEEDING WHILE WORKING, IN THE FIELDS, IN THE HOUSE, IN THE BACK BEING RAPED CONTINUOUSLY, WE WERE RIGHT THERE ALONGSIDE, THERE WAS NO GENDER DIFFERENTIATION. TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I THINK THERE IS ALSO THIS NEED TO RECOGNIZE GENDER, REMEMBER GENDER IS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, I AM A FREEDMEN, I'M A FREEDMEN AND DON'T TAKE THE MEN - DON'T ISOLATE THE MEN FROM THE FREED, KEEP IT TOGETHER BECAUSE WHEN IT IS TOGETHER, IT MEANS SOMETHING TOTALLY DIFFERENT. WHEN YOU'RE SAYING JUST MEN, THAT IS GENDER. WHEN YOU'RE SAYING FREED MAN, THIS IS THE NAME OF AN ETHNIC GROUP. I THINK YOUR QUESTIONS ARE REALLY IMPORTANT. IT IS ONE THAT IS GOING TO BE EXPLORED WITHIN THE FREEDMEN COMMUNITY AS WELL AS OUTSIDE, WE ARE HYPO, GENDER, BUT WHERE'S THE CONVERSATION ON FREED MAN, THERE IS NONE. I THINK IT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT TO ACKNOWLEDGE, THOSE WOULD BE THE WAYS I WOULD RECOMMEND IT. FOR ME, I HAVE SPOKEN WITH OTHER WOMEN WHO ARE FREED MAN. THIS IS A VERY MASCULINE NAME, WE ACKNOWLEDGE IT, WE DO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS A PRETTY MASCULINE NAME. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS LIKE OUR ANCESTORS ARE LIKE GO AHEAD WITH YOUR BAD SELF, GO AHEAD, YOU ARE FREED, YOU ARE FREED MAN. TO ACKNOWLEDGE WE ARE LIVING IN A COUNTRY, WHEREAS THOUGH WHITE MAN WHO IS CONSIDERED FREED, THAT IS THE STANDARD OF FREEDOM IS A WHITE CISGENDER HETEROSEXUAL MAN HAS THE STANDARD OF FREEDOM IN THIS COUNTRY AND WE ARE ALL STRIVING, I MEAN, WHO ELSE CAN STORM A CAPITAL WITH NO REPERCUSSIONS OTHER THAN A WHOLE BUNCH OF WHITE MEN. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THE SAME FOR ANYBODY ELSE SO THIS IS THE STANDARD, WE ARE LIKE LOOK, LOOK AT WHAT THEY CAN DO. I THINK IT IS ALSO, WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE (MIC CUT OUT). IN DEALING WITH THE REALITY OF THE WHITE PATRIARCHAL CAPITALIST OF OPPRESSION, THIS IS STILL OUR WORLD. FOR ME, I TAKE PRIDE IN THIS NAME BECAUSE I KNOW THAT I COME FROM A LINEAGE OF PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR THEIR FREEDOM TO BE CONSIDERED NOT A NEGRO, NOT A COLORED, NOT A MULATTO, NOT A PIECE OF PROPERTY, BUT A FREED MAN. ONE OF THE THINGS I REALIZE BECAUSE I DID GOOGLE IT, IS THAT I REALIZE THIS WORD IS KNOWN ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE. I THINK, I GET CHILLS THINKING ABOUT THAT MESSAGE THAT IS BEING SENT, BECAUSE I TELL PEOPLE THIS, I WANT THE SAME THING THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS. I WANT NEVER AGAIN ACTION, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PROMISE NEVER TO DO SLAVERY AGAIN? I WANT TO HEAR IT BECAUSE I'M SEEING WHAT IS OCCURRING RIGHT NOW WITH CORPORATIONS, AND I DON'T BELIEVE IT. I NEED TO SEE IT, I NEED TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE BECAUSE WHAT WE ARE FACING RIGHT NOW SCARES THE BE JESUS OUT OF ME. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO DEAL WITH IT, THINK TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IS THE LOOMING TOOL TO DO WITH WHAT WE ARE FACING RIGHT NOW. I THINK IT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE DESCENDENTS OF CHILDHOOD SLAVERY, TO SPEAK THEIR TRUTH, TO SPEAK THEIR TRUTH ABOUT WORKING FOR CORPORATIONS, AND THE HARMS THAT OCCURRED UNDERNEATH OF THE CORPORATIONS, I SAY THIS, THERE'S RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CAN BE GIVEN THAT IS GOING TO BE SPECIFIC FOR AMERICAN REEDMEN, THERE COULD BE RECOMMENDATIONS GIVEN THAT IS GOING TO EMPOWER EVERYBODY THAT IS A HUMAN BEING, EVERYBODY THAT IS GOING TO BE HUMAN RIGHTS IS GOING TO CHANGE THE WHOLE CONVERSATION. WHEN IT COMES TO THE NAME, I THINK WE ALL SHOULD

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BE PROUD.WE WON THE CIVIL WAR, WE ENDED SLAVERY, WE ARE PROUD ABOUT THAT, LET'S BE PROUD ABOUT THE FREEDMEN.IT'S BE PROUD ABOUT THEM TOO.IT HAS HISTORICAL CONNOTATION AND I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THAT WITH IT.DON'T JUST LOOK AT IT AS GENDER IS WHAT I WOULD ENCOURAGE, DON'T LET IT BE WHITEWASHED IN THAT MANNER. TO GO THROUGH THE GENDER WARS, DON'T LET IT COME DOWN TO THAT, IT IS NOT THAT AT ALL.I THINK IT IS ALSO THE BEAUTIFUL PART OF THE FREEDMEN COMMUNITY, KNOWING OUR HISTORY WITH LANGUAGE, KNOWING AA VE, HOW WE USE SLANG, WHAT TERMS MEAN FOR US, I THINK THIS IS ANOTHER EDUCATIONAL MOMENT WHERE IT IS JUST LIKE NO, YOU DON'T GET TO DEFINE THIS WORD, WE GET TO AND WE ARE TELLING YOU THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS.I THINK THAT SPACE NEEDS TO BE CARVEOUT, THE COMMISSION NEEDS TO EXIST, THOSE CONVERSATIONS NEED TO BE HAD AND THAT SPACE NEEDS TO BE CARVED OUT AND THEN RESPECT, AND WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE.THE EDUCATION THAT NEEDS TO OCCUR FOR THE RESPECT TO EXIST, THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT I THINK ABOUT.>>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.COUNCILOR NOLAN?>> Councilor Nolan: THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO SAY WHY BECAUSE I HEARD FROM OTHER PEOPLE OF WHY WOULD YOU INCLUDE THIS IN IT AND I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I DON'T DEFINE IT BUT THE GROUP INVOLVED DEFINES IT.I'M HEARING THE COMMISSION ITSELF MIGHT LOOK AT IT AND WILL CERTAINLY DISCUSS IT AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO ARTICULATE LIKE YOU DID WHY IT IS THAT THIS PARTICULAR WORD IS BEING USED AND THAT HAD NOT BEEN IN THE CONVERSATION BEFORE, SO IT WASN'T EXPLAINED UNTIL YOU HAD A CHANCE TO REALLY LET US KNOW IN THIS VENUE, REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS THAT CONSCIOUS DECISION WAS MADE TO INCLUDE THAT NAME IN IT.THAT IS, I'M GLAD YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THAT.THE OTHER, CAN YOU TALK TO - (MIC CUT OUT) REPARATIONS WORK AND TALKING ABOUT THIS, IS THERE A CONSCIOUS WILL AND CONVERSATION GOING ON TO ENSURE THAT THIS COMMISSION INTERFACES AND WORKS WITH ALL THOSE GROUPS? AGAIN, THEY ARE VERY EXCITING MEETINGS, AS YOU NOTED, NATIONALLY AT THE STATE LEVEL. THERE IS ALSO BOSTON HAS THEIR OWN REPARATIONS, NOT JUST IN BOSTON COMMENTS STATEWIDE. THOSE CONVERSATIONS I WAS PART OF. I KNOW IT BUILDS ON THIS WORK, AND PROBABLY THEN CAN BENEFIT FROM THE WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE, ALSO STRENGTH IN NUMBERS TO MAKE SURE OTHER COMMUNITIES ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THIS AS WELL.I KNOW THAT WE WOULD, THIS COMMISSION WOULD BE WORKING TO DO THAT AND BUILD ON THE MANY OTHER GROUPS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY THAT ARE WORKING ON THESE ISSUES.>>> MS.JAMES?>>> YES, IN THE FOURTH WHEREAS, IT PROVIDES FOUR DIFFERENT AREAS THAT THIS COMMISSION HAS TO DO WORK.ONE, PROVIDE HARM REPORTS TO EXAMINE PATHWAYS TO READJUST HARM, THREE, PROVIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION ON JUSTICE AND REPARATIONS AS DEFINED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW APPEARED FOR, PROVIDE DEFINING FRAMEWORK OF REPARATIVE JUSTICE FOR THE CITY. ALL THESE THINGS ARE GOING TO REQUIRE RESEARCH, THAT RESEARCH IS NOT JUST TO BE DONE ON GOOGLE.THAT RESEARCH IS GOING TO REQUIRE COLLABORATIVE CONVERSATIONS, IT'S GOING TO REQUIRE SPEAKING WITH THE TOWN OF AMHERST, I CAN TELL YOU WHAT THEIR UPDATES WERE, THEY RECENTLY RELEASED A REPORT AND I CAN TELL YOU THE OUTCOMES FROM THE AMHERST PROCESS BUT IT'S GOING TO REQUIRE TALKING WITH OTHER TOWNS, WE CANNOT WORK ALONE, WE CANNOT WORK IN A VACUUM, WHICH IS WHY I WAS LIKE NO, THE CITY COUNCIL, YOU HAVE TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS AS A COMMISSION, WE ARE GOING TO NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN THE COMMISSION IS GOING TO NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND WE ARE GOING TO NEED TO WORK WITH OTHER TOWNS AND WE ARE TELLING OUR STATE, THIS IS WHAT REPARATIONS LOOKS LIKE, WE THE PEOPLE ARE OWNING THIS CONVERSATION.IT IS NOT GOING TO BE A TOP DOWN, RIGHT NOW IT'S BEEN OCCURRING IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, IT'S BEEN A TOP-DOWN APPROACH.TO BE HONEST, IN

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MY PERSONAL OPINION, IT'S BEEN A FAILURE. I CAN TELL YOU THE FAILURES OF THE CITY OF BOSTON ALL DAY LONG, IT'S ALARMING, SCARY, WHICH IS WHY I TOOK MORE TIME WITH THIS IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE BECAUSE I WAS LEARNING SO MANY LESSONS FROM BOSTON AND THE FAILURES OCCURRING IN THAT TOWN WITH THE REPARATIONS WORK. I DO BELIEVE THAT WITH THIS COMMISSION, WE ARE DODGING A LOT OF BULLETS IN OUR APPROACH, BECAUSE IT'S MORE COLLABORATIVE AND IS NOT TOP-DOWN. IT'S ACTUALLY GOING TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION TO DO ITS WORK. WHICH IS ALSO CRITICAL, WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT I'M SEEING THAT IS ABSENT WAS THE REPARATIONS TASK FORCE IN BOSTON THAT THEY LACK THE SUPPORT TO ACTUALLY DO THEIR WORK, THE TASK FORCE STARTED WITH 15 PEOPLE, IT IS NOW DOWN TO FIVE, THINGS LIKE THAT DON'T HAPPEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE FEELING LIKE THEY'RE ACTUALLY BEING SUPPORTED TO DO THEIR WORK. THAT IS ALL I WAS SAYING, THERE IS A WHOLE HOST OF THINGS TO BE SAID ABOUT THE REPARATIONS TASK FORCE IN BOSTON. I CAN TALK OFF-LINE ABOUT THESE THINGS. OUR CITY, THINK WE HAVE DEFINED ALL THESE THINGS HERE, WHICH IS IMPORTANT, AND IT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, WE ARE IN GOOD SHAPE HERE. I ALSO WANT TO STRESS, WE HAVE THE LOCAL COLLEGES HERE WITH US, SO THERE'S GOING TO BE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT (MIC CUT OUT). COUNCILOR NOLAN? >> Councilor Nolan: THANK YOU, LOOK FORWARD TO THIS MOVING FORWARD, DEVELOPING, BECOMING A FULFILLING DIVISION AND DREAM THAT WE ALL HAVE FOR THIS TAKING IT REALLY CRITICALLY IMPORTANT STEP TO ADDRESS THE HARMS THAT WERE DONE. I YELLED AT THIS POINT TO CHAIR ZONDERVAN. >>> THANK YOU, CITY MANAGER? DID YOU WANT TO SAY ANYTHING OR? >>> HI, THANK YOU FOR CALLING THIS CHAIR ZONDERVAN AND THANK YOU MS. JAMES FOR BEING HERE. I THINK I JUST WANTED TO ATTEND BECAUSE I RECOGNIZE HOW IMPORTANT THIS WORK IS, I APPRECIATE HOW MUCH HAS GONE INTO THIS OVER THE YEARS AND VERY EXCITED TO SEE SOME CONSENSUS COMING OUT ABOUT HOW TO MOVE FORWARD AND ESPECIALLY, LOOKING AT HOW WE ARE LEARNING FROM HOW OTHER CITIES AND PLACES ARE TACKLING THIS DIFFICULT CHALLENGE. I WOULD SAY I THINK ONE PART OF THIS WORK, IS THE EASIEST PART IS TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A DEEP HISTORICAL ONGOING HARM THAT NEEDS REPAIR, NEEDS ATTENTION, NEEDS CONVERSATION, ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IS, WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. I'M GRATEFUL WE ARE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION BECAUSE IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT, AND WE WILL JUST SAY THE CITY IS REALLY COMMITTED TO BEING IN THIS WORK, AND EXCITED TO HAVE SORT OF FURTHER CONVERSATIONS AS WE MOVE THIS FORWARD. I DON'T KNOW, DID WE WANT TO HAVE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ORDINANCE LANGUAGE, OR SHOULD WE SAY THAT FOR THE COUNCIL? PROBABLY SAVE IT. >>> THIS IS THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND PLACE TO HAVE THAT DISCUSSION. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. >>> WE DID DO A LITTLE MEETING IN ADVANCE TO REVIEW THE ORDINANCE LANGUAGE, SO I THINK MAYBE WE WILL TURN IT OVER TO CITY SOLICITOR THERE TO MAYBE ASK SOME QUESTIONS, AND WE CAN JUST RAISE SOME THOUGHTS AS WE MOVE FORWARD. I RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE ALREADY MOVED THIS TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, BUT I THINK WE CAN MAYBE HAVE SOME DISCUSSION AND THERE CAN BE FURTHER CONVERSATION WHEN IT GETS TO THE FULL COUNCIL. >>> THANK YOU, THROUGH YOU CHAIR ZONDERVAN, WE DID TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORDINANCE, AND THAT IS SOMETHING THE LAW DEPARTMENT COULD WORK ON. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE TAKE A VOTE TO ASK US TO DO SO BECAUSE I THINK THERE ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN HELP CLARIFY SOME ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND ADDING INTO THE ORDINANCE. BRIEFLY, TO TALK ABOUT THOSE A LITTLE BIT. ONE IS, I HEARD MS. JAMES TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THE PROVISIONS THAT ARE IN THE COUNCIL ORDER IN THE WHEREAS CLAUSES. IF THOSE ARE GOING TO BE PART OF THE PURPOSE, AND THE MISSION, THE WORK THAT THE COMMISSION IS DOING,

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THEN THAT SHOULD BE INCORPORATED FROM THE COUNCIL ORDER, ACTUALLY INTO THE ORDINANCE BECAUSE THE COUNCIL ORDER ESTABLISHING POLICY, AND ASKING TO MOVE THE ORDINANCE FORWARD, BUT THE ORDINANCE IS WHAT ACTUALLY TELLS THE COMMISSION WHAT WORK THEY ARE ESTABLISHED TO PERFORM. ALSO, I'M GETTING INTO SORT OF SOME OF THE TECHNICAL THINGS. THE MEMBERS, IT TALKS ABOUT THAT THERE SHALL BE MEMBERS, (MIC CUT OUT). WOULD BE APPOINTED, THEN WHEN THE WORK ENDED, THE TASK FORCE WOULD NO LONGER BE PERFORMING ANY WORK. IF THIS IS AN ONGOING COMMISSION, THERE SHOULD BE SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT TERMS THEY SERVE, OR THE TERMS ALL STARTING AND ENDING AT THE SAME TIME, OR HOW THAT'S GOING TO WORK. WE CAN LOOK AT SAMPLES TO SOME OF THE OTHER COMMISSIONS OR COMMITTEES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE TO GET SOME IDEAS OF HOW WE MAY WANT THE TERMS OF THE COMMISSION TO WORK. ALSO, WILL THERE BE A CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION. SOMETIMES THE CHAIR IS ELECTED BY THE MEMBERS, BUT I THINK WE HAVE AT LEAST SOME ORDINANCES, THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION MIGHT SAY, WHERE THERE IS SOME COMMISSION WHERE THE CHAIR IS APPOINTED BY SOMEONE ELSE. WE COULD THINK ABOUT WHETHER THAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD WANT ADDRESSED IN THE ORDINANCE. I THINK WE WOULD HAVE SOME OTHER SUGGESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY LANGUAGE AND WE ARE HAPPY TO DO THAT WORK OR THE COUNCIL. >>> THANK YOU, I LEFT SOME OF THOSE DETAILS OUT ON PURPOSE, SOME OF THEM COULD BE DONE THROUGH REGULATION AS WELL. TO GIVE US SOME FLEXIBILITY THERE. BUT CERTAINLY, I'M HAPPY TO CONSIDER PROPOSED CHANGES. TO THE ORDINANCE. WE WILL HAVE A MOTION ON ASKING THE CITY MANAGER AND LAW DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE LANGUAGE AND MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE CITY COUNCIL. COUNCIL MCGOVERN'S MOTION? >>> COUNCILOR AZEEM? >>

> Councilor Azeem: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR CARLONE?

>>> Councilor Carlone: YES.

>>> VICE MAYOR MALLON?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR MCGOVERN?

>>> Councilor McGovern: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR NOLAN?

>>> Councilor Nolan: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR SIMMONS?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR TONER?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR ZONDERVAN?

>>> Councilor Zondervan: YES.

>>> MAYOR SIDDIQUI?

>>> Mayor Siddiqui: YES.

>>> MR CHAIR, YOU HAVE SIX MEMBERS WHO HAVE VOTED YES, THREE MEMBERS ARE ABSENT. >>> WE WILL ADD A DEADLINE OF NOVEMBER 20TH TO THE MOTION SO THAT WE CAN HAVE THAT ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA WITH THIS ORDINANCE SO THAT WE CAN MOVE IT TO SECOND READING AND CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS AT THAT TIME. ANY FURTHER COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER OR STAFF? SEEING NONE, ANY COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL? COMMITTEE? COUNCILOR CARLONE.>> Councilor Carlone: THANK YOU, MR CHAIR. JUST SOME OBSERVATIONS, I HAVE DONE A LOT OF RESEARCH ON DNA AND THE GROWTH OF HOMO SAPIENS, JUST SOMETHING I'M INTERESTED IN AND I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR MENTIONING, I ALWAYS CONSIDERED IT MILLENNIUMS, THAT THERE WAS CHANGE OVER MILLENNIUMS. I DIDN'T FOCUS ON MORE IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN DNA FROM STRUGGLE AND PAIN AND STILL AFFECTING PEOPLE. BOY, WHEN YOU SAID THAT, I WAS THERE ALL ALONG BUT THAT REALLY HIT HOME FOR ME. THANK YOU FOR THAT. I AGREE ABOUT GROWING FOOD, IT WASN'T THE FOCUS BUT IT WAS SOMETHING YOU MENTIONED, AND I HAVE SAID THIS BEFORE TO THE COUNCIL, WE HAVE 50 PERCENT OF THE OPEN SPACE THAT THE AVERAGE CITY HAS, AND 20 SQUARE FEET OR SO, 25 SQUARE FEET OR SO (MIC CUT OUT). THE NOTION OF LOOKING AT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES, WHETHER IT IS ALONG MEMORIAL DRIVE WITH THE STATE, OR WHATEVER. TO ME, I CAN'T AGREE MORE IN DOING THAT AND FRANKLY, MAKING MORE OPEN SPACE. MAKING IT GREENER AS WELL AS PRODUCTIVE. ONE OTHER COMMENT I WANTED TO ADD, I KNOW THE FOCUS IS DEFINITELY ON FREEDMEN, I WORKED IN GROWTH ALL OF ROXBURY AND DORCHESTER COME TOGETHER, AND MAYBE OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD AND I COULD REALLY SENSE WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. THE LACK OF CONFIDENCE AMONGST SOME TALKING TO A WHITE GUY, TRYING TO HELP THEM. I'M AN ARCHITECT URBAN DESIGNER, THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT THAT IS WHEN I WORKED IN ANOTHER COMMUNITY, PLYMOUTH, AND I STARTED SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF NATIVE AMERICANS, IT WAS EXACTLY THE SAME FEELINGS. THAT THEY FELT THEY WEREN'T HEARD, THEY WERE RESPECTED. I AGREE THAT SLAVERY, THE BIGGEST SIN IN THE WORLD NEEDS TO BE TREATED AS YOU HAVE PROPOSED. I'M PART CHEROKEE, A VERY TINY AMOUNT BUT I HOPE LEARN FROM YOU TO BE HONEST. I'M NOT SAYING THEY ARE EQUAL, THEY ARE DIFFERENT. BUT BOY, DEVASTATION NEVERTHELESS. MY LAST COMMENT IS, EVERY LEADER THAT CHANGE CULTURE HAD THE INTELLIGENCE, AND THE EMOTION TO DO THAT AND THAT IS WHAT YOU SHOW TODAY. IT WASN'T JUST ONE OR THE OTHER, IT IS EASY ONE OR THE OTHER, BUT YOU COMBINED IT IN A VERY UNIQUE WAY. YOU HAD US BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH BECAUSE WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT IT AND AS A GROUP, I'M VERY PROUD THAT WE ALL FEEL LIKE YOU ARE RIGHT, THERE IS NO QUESTION. I COULD TALK MORE ABOUT THAT, BUT I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, BUT THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS AND I'M LEAVING THE COUNCIL AFTER TEN YEARS, BUT I AM PROUD THAT YOU CAME TO CAMBRIDGE AND SAID YOU GUYS HAVE TO DO THIS AND KEPT PUSHING. CONGRATULATIONS, THANK YOU MR CHAIR.>>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR. JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS OF BUSINESS, MS. JAMES, DO WE HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO SHARE THE PRESENTATION AS PART OF THE MEETING MATERIALS? THANK YOU. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AS WELL, WE CAN DO A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE BILL THAT YOU MENTIONED. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ON THAT AND PASSING THAT THROUGH THE COUNCIL AS WELL. ANY OTHER COMMENTS FROM MY COLLEAGUES? WITH THAT, WE WILL ADJOURN.

>>> COUNCILOR AZEEM?

>>> Councilor Azeem: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR CARLONE?

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>>> Councilor Carlone: YES.

>>> VICE MAYOR MALLON?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR MCGOVERN?

>>> Councilor McGovern: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR NOLAN?

>>> Councilor Nolan: YES.

>>> COUNCILOR SIMMONS?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR TONER?

ABSENT.

>>> COUNCILOR ZONDERVAN?

>>> Councilor Zondervan: YES.

>>> MAYOR SIDDIQUI?

>>> Mayor Siddiqui: YES.

>>> MR CHAIR, SIX MEMBERS VOTED YES, THREE MEMBERS ARE ABSENT.>>> WE ARE
ADJOURNED. [MEETING ENDED 1237]

Chapter 2.131 - American Freedmen Commission

2.131.010 - Definitions.

1. "Cambridge Residents" shall mean: persons who have established residency in the City of Cambridge, legal or otherwise, including immigrants, citizens and people who were born and or raised in whole or in part in Cambridge.
2. "Transitional Justice" shall mean: Adequate, effective and prompt reparations to redress gross or serious violations of international human rights law, including but not limited to enslavement, genocide, racism, land theft, denial of healthcare, denial of housing, denial of economic opportunity, mass incarceration and other historical, systemic and ongoing injustices perpetrated by the State against Cambridge Residents.
3. "Chattel Slavery" shall mean: the practice of enslaving and owning people as property, including their descendants, starting in the 14th century, and ending in the 19th century.
4. "American Freedmen" shall mean: persons who were freed from Chattel Slavery in the United States, and their descendants.

2.131.020 - Establishment and Purpose

A. There shall be a Cambridge American Freedmen Commission consisting of no less than five and no more than fifteen members, at least 85% of them identifying as American Freedmen.

B. The Commission shall be considered a department of the City, with all the rights and responsibilities thereof. The Executive Director of the Commission shall be considered the Department Head.

C. Commissioners shall be paid a stipend.

D. The Cambridge American Freedmen Commission shall work with the City Manager and/or their assistants, including the Chief of Equity and Inclusion, and other Departments to implement Transitional Justice for Cambridge Resident American Freedmen. The Commission will investigate and report on the historical, systemic and ongoing harms done to American Freedmen by the State (Federal, Massachusetts and Cambridge governments), and identify adequate, effective and prompt reparations.

E. The City Manager, through the Office of Equity and Inclusion, shall have the power to issue additional regulations to facilitate and further the work of the Commission.