



September 20, 2023

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Office of the Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

RE: Memorializing Resolution File #0007-23; **Supporting a Community Commission to Study Reparations Remedies in New York State**

Dear Governor Hochul:

Attached is Memorializing Resolution File Number 0007 of 2023, which was recently submitted to the Rochester City Council. This item is entitled: **Memorializing the Governor to sign the New York State Senate Bill S.1163A/A.7691 to support a community commission to study reparations remedies in New York State.**

Please note, Resolution File Number 0007 of 2023 was signed by Eight of Rochester's Nine Members of City Council.

Respectfully Forwarded,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James P. Smith".

James Patrick Smith
Chief of Staff

attachments



September 20, 2023

To The Honorable
Rochester City Council
30 Church Street
Rochester, New York 14614

RE: Memorializing the Governor to sign the New York State Senate Bill S.1163A/A.7691 to support a community commission to study reparations remedies in New York State.

Honorable Council Members:

I ask you to join me by signing your name on this Memorializing Transmittal to urge the Governor to support a community commission to study reparations remedies in New York State, in doing so, to collectively **State and Resolve:**

WHEREAS, New York would create a commission that would examine the extent to which the federal and state government supported the institution of slavery by addressing persistent economic, political and educational disparities; and

WHEREAS, a commission could analyze the lasting impact the institution of slavery has on the basic civil rights for African-Americans and New York State's own history of segregation, housing discrimination and redlining, unequal pay, voter suppression, and police bias and brutality; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of slavery in New York State is not an echo of the past, as it can still be observed in daily life; systemic racism has cemented a legacy of generational poverty which we still see today instances of voter suppression, housing discrimination, biased policing, food apartheid, and disproportionate rates of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, currently, in the United States, the imprisonment rate of Black Americans for drug charges is almost six times that of white Americans, despite the rate of drug usage being similar among both groups; and

WHEREAS, likewise, in 2021 the Rochester Commission on Racial and Structural Equity recommended ending the use of the pre-textual stops by the RPD due to the disproportionate harm done to the Black and Latinx community; an estimated 9,390 people were stopped in Rochester between January 2021 and July 2022, with 69 percent of those being Black, even though only 38 percent of Rochester's population was Black; and

WHEREAS, These policies have also led to the tragic deaths of Black Americans here in New York such as Daniel Prude, who was unarmed and facing a mental health crisis when he was forcibly restrained by Rochester police, and ultimately died due to complications of asphyxia resulting from his restraint; and

RESOLVED, We, the undersigned Members of Rochester City Council, affirm the critical importance to examine the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and discrimination on living people of African descent and on society in the State of New York; and, be it further,

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Rochester City Council calls on the Governor of New York State to sign the New York State Senate Bill S.1163A/A.7691 to support a community commission to study reparations remedies in New York State.

Sincerely,



Mary Lupien, Vice President
East District Representative

The following Councilmembers join their colleague in support of Memorializing Resolution 0007-23:



Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr., President
At-Large Representative



Mitch Gruber, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



LaShay D. Harris, Councilmember
South District Representative



Willie J. Lightfoot, Sr., Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Stanley Martin, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Michael Patterson, Councilmember
At-Large Representative



Kim Smith, Councilmember
At-Large Representative