

MOTION INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND GENERAL SERVICES


The institution of slavery in the United States deprived multiple generations of Black Americans the opportunity to own land. General William T. Sherman's Special Field Order Number 15, issued On January 16, 1865, set aside a thirty-mile tract of land along the South Carolina and Georgia coasts for former slaves and promised the army's help securing loaned mules. In addition, the Freed-men's Bureau initially was authorized to divide abandoned and confiscated lands into forty-acre tracts for rental and eventual sale to refugees and former slaves. However, significant land redistribution measures ultimately were abandoned, and virtually all southern lands were returned to white owners. "40 acres and a mule" has come to symbolize the broken promise that Reconstruction policies would offer economic justice for African Americans. The promise was the first systematic attempt to provide a form of reparations to newly freed slaves.


The history of American and the continuation of our institutionalized racism in society demands radical change from our government and institutions that have stood idly by in the past. We must acknowledge and correct our past wrongs for us to heal and move together as one community – one city into the future. Institutional racism in the United States is not a new concept to any of us. Our country was founded on the tenets of racism and slavery which continues to permeate our society today.


One way we can make progress in this endeavor and work to correct systemic and institutional racism is by developing opportunities for our communities to access generational wealth, one of the lingering effects of our history that has intentionally left African-Americans, Indigenous people and the Latinx community on the outside looking in perpetuated poverty, unemployment, shorter lifespans, a lower quality of education and healthcare, and higher than average incarceration rates. With this goal in mind, the City of Los Angeles should examine its real estate holdings and develop a policy to donate surplus property back to the community in order to meet the needs of the residents in that neighborhood. This is just one strategy that the City can employ to correct our past wrongs at great benefit to the people and neighborhoods that need it the most.

I THEREFORE MOVE to instruct the CLA, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer and the Department of General Services, to report back to the City Council with a list of surplus property from Council Districts 1, 8 and 10, that may be donated to a community land trust organization in each respective Council District, for the purpose of meeting the needs (affordable housing, recreational green space, community garden etc.) of a particular neighborhood or community as identified by the residents of that area.

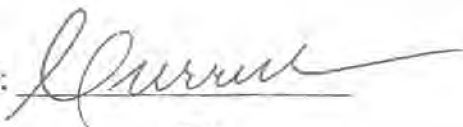
PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



JUN 9 2020



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