December 22, 2023

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie Chair, Committee on Business and Economic Development Council of the District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 506 Washington, DC 20004 kmcduffie@dccouncil.gov

> RE: DC Council Bill B25-0152 – the "Reparations Foundation Fund and Task Force Establishment Act of 2023"

Dear Councilmember McDuffie,

At its regular meeting on November 15, 2023, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A ("ANC 2A" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With six of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted (4-2-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Bandy, to adopt resolution CR-23-007, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2023, "The Reparations Foundation Fund and Task Force Establishment Act of 2023¹" (B25-0125) was introduced,

WHEREAS, this legislation seeks to acknowledge the centuries of governmentsanctioned policies and private practices that exploited Black people as chattel property,

WHEREAS, this legislation will address the anti-Black racism baked into government institutions and civil society,

WHEREAS, the racial wealth gap in DC is stark, with the typical white household having a net worth that is 81 times greater (\$284,000) than the typical Black household $(\$3,500)^2$,

WHEREAS, this legislation will establish a nine-member Reparations Task Force to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans directly wronged and traumatized by the violence of slavery, Jim Crow, and structural and institutional racism,

WHEREAS, the legislation would require the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking to establish a slavery era database of records relating to slaveholding, which will subsequently be made available to the Reparations Task Force to aid in its study of reparations proposals,

¹ B25-0152 - Reparations Foundation Fund and Task Force Establishment Act of 2023 (decouncil.gov)

² The Color of Wealth in the Nation's Capital | Urban Institute



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

"Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C."

WHEREAS, the DC Council would establish a Reparations Foundation Fund to be used for the payment of reparations under a program established pursuant to the findings and recommendations of the Reparations Task Force, and

WHEREAS, it will take government-sanctioned action to atone for enslavement and address the violent robbing of generational wealth in Black communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages the DC Council to support the Reparations Foundation Fund and Task Force Establishment Act of 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it will take government-sanctioned action to atone for enslavement and address the violent robbing of generational wealth in Black communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Black Americans should be compensated for their ancestors' labor and for the continuing effects of policies and systems designed to suppress their potential to build wealth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to adopt the recommendations of the Racial Equity Impact Assessment for this legislation in regards to the proposed slavery-era database, namely that the database be public information and that the legislation be amended to specify how the database must be used to create future proposals and legislation.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (<u>2A03@anc.dc.gov</u>) and Jim Malec (<u>2A02@anc.dc.gov</u>) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Jim Malec

Chairperson

Jim Malec