

**RESOLUTION NO. 68**  
**Resolution on Reparations for 2017**

**WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of this honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan) has revised and in January of 2017 re-introduced House Resolution 40 (HR40) related to the creation of a national commission to study and examine the United States' inhumane institution of slavery and its negative affects upon American life and culture and how remnants of this institution may still be affecting American life today and to make recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1989 Representative Conyers, who is a lawyer and ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, has repeatedly introduced HR. 40 but has recently updated and revised his proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 12, 2000 this Board adopted Resolution 30 supporting the study outlined in the earlier version of HR 40; and

**WHEREAS**, the revised HR 40 is essentially designed to address and study the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study this issue, its affects and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, and to make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies; and

**WHEREAS**, this brutal American institution enslaved millions of Africans in the United States and the colonies that became the United States for over 240 years and was for an extended time constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, slavery was a major component in the social, political and economic fabric of the United States and constituted an inhumane deprivation of the African human rights, citizenship rights, cultural heritage and denied them the fruits of their own labor; and

**WHEREAS**, slavery was also an integral part of the economic, political and social life of the State of Missouri and played a significant role in the history and development of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, sufficient inquiry into this inhumane system has not been made as to the effects of the institution of slavery has had on living African-Americans and the society of the United States as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution is not designed to ridicule or indict any group, nor does it endorse the issuance of reparations, or make a statement about its merits or none merits

but strongly urges the passage of HR 40 and its contentions that, at the very least, a detailed examination of this issue and related issues surrounding this American tragedy, with the possible recommendation for action is warranted.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we support an examination of such issues as delineated in H.R. 40 and therefore support the passage of H.R. 40 by Congress and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to those deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 16th day of June, 2017, by:

**The Honorable John Collins-Muhammad, Alderman 21<sup>st</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen**  
**The Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Brandon Bosley, Alderman 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Tammika Hubbard, Alderwoman 5<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Pam Boyd, Alderwoman 27<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted the 16th day of June, 2017, as attested by:

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Donna Evans-Booker  
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen