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The Reparations Stakeholders Authority of Evanston Announces Fund at Evanston Community Foundation

February 1, 2020, Evanston, IL --- The Reparations Stakeholders Authority of Evanston (RSAE) announced today that it has established the Evanston Reparations Community Fund. The Fund will provide investment support for efforts in advancing Evanston's Reparations Program and will be housed at the Evanston Community Foundation.

This new Fund will be administered by the RSAE and is intended to directly benefit Evanston's Black community and to heal racism and address harm caused by discriminatory practices. The RSAE will raise funds, develop grant processes, and administer grants to advance Evanston Reparations work. Further, it will help ensure that funding is available for reparations once the City of Evanston's tax revenues for reparations are no longer available.

"The RSAE idea was first initiated a year ago by Alderman Robin Rue Simmons, Evanston's 5th Ward Alderman, along with the consulting team consisting of Rev. Michael Nabors, Pastor Monté Dillard, 2nd Ward Alderman Peter Braithwaite, Henry Wilkins, Spencer Jourdain and myself," said Dino Robinson, Founder of Shorefront. "The organizing team of the RSAE are excited about the lasting future of this fund that the community guides."

The Fund is an asset-based approach to building wealth for Black residents who experienced the impact of local housing and systemic discrimination between 1919 and 1969, as well as their direct descendants. "For Black residents who have been seeking to make Evanston their permanent home, our committee is excited about the long-term impact of the Evanston Reparations Community Fund," said Robinson. "These proposed remedies and work from the beginning, have been led by the community whom over the last 18 months created the initial list of recommendations."

The RSAE functioning board consists of members of the "harmed" community whose main purpose is to issue funding distributions through the Evanston Reparations Community Fund held at ECF.

ECF will house the Evanston Reparations Community Fund and any resident can participate in providing a contribution. The Fund's focus is on helping Evanston's Black residents with a variety of developing benefits and programs to be developed by the RSAE that will address issues like home retention and ownership, education, business development, health and cultural awareness. It will be managed by a term-limited team of Black residents under the forming Reparations Stakeholders Authority of Evanston.

"Black people in Evanston, and in this country, are dealing with racial issues that are systemic in nature. ECF is proud to hold a fund to address the harm caused. We offer a full range of funds to meet the needs of our community and to support the philanthropic goals of our donors," said Joi-Anissa Russell, ECF Vice President of Philanthropy and Communications.

For more information on the Evanston Reparations Community Fund, please contact Alderman Robin Rue Simmons at RSimmons@cityofevanston.org. For additional questions about the Evanston Community Foundation, please visit [Evanston Community Foundation](#). Contributions to the Fund can be made on the [Evanston Reparations Community Fund](#) page. If you have additional questions, contact Joi-Anissa Russell, Vice President of Philanthropy and Communications, ECF, at russell@evanstonforever.org.

The Evanston Community Foundation was established in 1986 to help Evanston thrive now and forever as a vibrant, inclusive, and equitable community. The Evanston Community Foundation builds, connects, and distributes resources and knowledge through local organizations for the common good.

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