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Nur Barre
Paige Blessman
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP
Christopher Gulock, AICP

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

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Marcel Hurt, Esq.
Kimani Jeffrey
Edward King
Jamie Murphy
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TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: April 13, 2022

RE: Reparations Task Force Survey

Council President Sheffield created a survey to gather community input relative to the proposed composition of the voter approved Reparations Task Force. After receiving over four hundred responses to the survey questions from members of the community, the Legislative Policy Division, (LPD) has been requested to provide a report summarizing the results and offering a recommendation based upon the responses received.

Attached is the requested report. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

In order to gather additional input from the community, Council President Sheffield created a survey to inquire as to how the Reparations Task Force should be comprised relating to size, eligibility criteria, and composition. The survey received 412 responses from the community and the results were as follows:

Size

How many people should be on the reparations task force?

5-7	61 selected this
6-11	141 selected this
12-15	124 selected this
16-25	44 selected this
More than 25	37 selected this

Eligibility

Should task force members be a Detroit resident?

Yes	358 selected this
No	55 selected this

If yes, how long should the Detroiter have been a resident of the city?

0-5 years	69 selected this
6-10 years	122 selected this
11-16 years	76 selected this
16-20 years	65 selected this
More than 25 years	73 selected this

Should members only be African American?

Yes	192 selected this
No	221 selected this

If no, what other races/ethnicities should be considered?

Arab	87 selected this
Asian	87 selected this
Latinx	127 selected this
Native American	142 selected this
Mixed Culture	5 selected this
White	71 selected this

Other

52 selected this

(Predominantly African American; All should be considered; Races should be represented; Citizens of African American Descent; Why is this a question?; 90% African American; Anyone; All who support the cause; There are Black Latinos who could sit on the committee; Gender diversity; Any nonwhite; Range of demographics representing past and future of the City; Black descendants of enslaved persons; Jewish; Majority African American with other groups represented)

Composition

Of the criteria listed, please choose out of the listed professions, or disciplines you believe should be represented on the Task Force:

Historian	292 selected this
Legal	274 selected this
Impacted Resident	241 selected this
Community/Grassroots Organizer	224/143 selected this
Housing Expert	224 selected this

Social Justice Advocate	210 selected this
Economist	203 selected this
Senior Citizen	200 selected this
Urban Planner	188 selected this
Youth Representative	153 selected this
Restorative Justice Advocate	142 selected this
Clergy/Religious	138 selected this
Social Service Agency	134 selected this
Academia Representative	129 selected this
Health Disparities Advocate	124 selected this
Environmental Justice Advocate	111 selected this
Corporate Representative	88 selected this
Union Representative	78 selected this
Foundation Representative	71 selected this

Other

90 selected this

(Knowledge of our great story; Researcher of Post Slavery Trauma; Experts need not be members of the Task Force, but should be available to advise it; Mental health; Emergent strategy; needs to be ideologically diverse; project managers and accountability experts; anthropologist; randomly chosen African Americans without further qualifications)

Findings

According to the results of the survey, the composition of Reparations Task Force would be as follows:

Size

- 6-11 persons

Eligibility

- Detroit Residents
- Required term of residency 6-10 years.
- Membership is open to Non-African Americans

Composition

The top 12 professions and disciplines selected for representation on the Task Force:

1. Historian
2. Legal
3. Impacted resident
4. Community/Grass roots
5. Housing expert
6. Social justice advocate
7. Economist
8. Senior Citizen
9. Urban Planner
10. Youth Representative
11. Restorative Justice Advocate
12. Clergy/Religion