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RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 568

**A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING TAMPA'S HISTORY WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF RACIALLY MOTIVATED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS; FORMALLY APOLOGIZING TO ALL FORMER AND CURRENT AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF TAMPA FOR ANY AND ALL PAST PARTICIPATION IN THE DAMAGE THIS SHAMEFUL HISTORY HAS CAUSED; DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A RECONCILIATION COMMISSION WITH A MISSION OF STUDYING AND DEVELOPING PROPOSALS TO REDRESS THE ENDURING NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF SLAVERY AND THE SUBSEQUENT SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION DIRECTED AT TAMPA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENTS BY PROMOTING RACIAL AND SOCIAL EQUITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, in order for the City of Tampa to fully embrace the change necessary to move our community forward, the City Council believes it is necessary to recognize and acknowledge the slavery that flourished in the State of Florida and in Tampa constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of Africans' life and liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, following the abolition of slavery, Tampa continued to perpetuate, condone, and profit from practices that continued to brutalize and disadvantage African Americans, including sharecropping, convict leasing, Jim Crow laws, redlining, unequal education, and disproportionate treatment at the hands of the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, such practices were often overt, but more often covertly adopted or incorporated under the guise of legitimate policy, and formed a complex system of racially motivated discrimination against African Americans, including economic, political, educational, and social discrimination, resulting in African Americans continuing to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health adversities; and

**WHEREAS**, to heal and not to divide, the City Council of the City of Tampa seeks to redress the harms of those who came before us and the injustices that continue to surround us so that we do what we can to make the City of Tampa and its institutions and communities more just and equitable for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** The City Council hereby acknowledges Tampa's history which contributed to a complex system of racially motivated discrimination against African Americans, and formally apologizes to all former and current African American residents of the City of Tampa for the damage this shameful history has caused.

**Section 2.** The City Council apologizes for any and all past participation in sanctioning segregation and systemic discrimination of African Americans.

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