

From your perspective, what happened to Russell City, why do you think it happened, and how did it affect your family?

Government and private interests aligned to redevelop Russell City for private use which necessitated the removal of the residents. My maternal great grandparents, paternal grandparents, my parents and my siblings were forcibly removed from their "forever" homes. I was denied the opportunity to live in this loving community as my mother was pregnant with me during her forced removal. The government utilized its redevelopment power under the pretense of public health concerns, which, if they existed, were created by the government's denial of repeated infrastructure support from the residents. Redevelopment for public use was a tool that was nearly exclusively utilized to raze Black communities throughout the country and was utilized in Russell City as well. Our family became renters and mortgage holders due to the paltry remuneration received, if any, for their land which they owned free and clear. We have remained a renting and mortgage owning family every since the forced removal and thus limited generational wealth has been passed on to support a decent quality of life in the Bay area.

What is your connection to the Russell City Community?

I am the paternal great grand daughter, maternal grand daughter, daughter, sister, niece, cousin and friend of Russell City residents. My mom was pregnant with me when she was forcibly removed from Russell City.

What is your background? What meaningful value or expertise can you bring to the committee?

I am a former resident of Hayward, California. I hold several relevant university degrees including B.A. from UCLA; Masters of Public Health from UC Berkeley; Masters of Business Administration with a specialization in Corporate and Real Estate Finance and Marketing; I have a Doctorate of Education from Saint Mary's College of California in Educational Leadership. I am a licensed real estate broker since 1999 and have decades of commercial real estate development, brokerage, financing and management experience. Most importantly, I bring the dreams of my ancestors for whom their "forever home" was taken from them and I seek restoration and reparation on their behalf.

Do you have any additional or unique qualifications you would like to share? If so, please list them below.

I am the Chief Executive Officer of a nonprofit community development organization which acquires and develops commercial mixed-use property which provides economic development opportunity and affordable/workforce housing in the Bay Area.

Tell us about your experience working in a team or community-based process.

I build and participate in numerous collaboratives throughout the Bay Area -- particularly Alameda County, California. These collaboratives requires community engagement and development as a precedent to and in tandem with their creation and operation, respectively.

What is your purpose for being here? As a member of the committee, what do you want to achieve? At the end of the day, what would you want to see happen and what are you willing to do to get us there?

My purpose is to support the City of Hayward in its quest to provide reparative justice to the Russell City Residents and, for those like my grandparents, father, aunts and uncles, who are no longer living, their descendants. It is important that the truth of what happened and its impact on the residents and their descendants be revealed and shared; that there is reconciliation between the truths and fiction that may have been created; that there is reparation for the negative impacts related to the forced removal; and a reimagining of a future where truth, reparation and acceptance can exist in the hearts and minds of all which have been, are and will be impacted by the decisions that are made. We must imagine a country that can simply tell the truth and not respond defensively and just listen; and can have empathy and live by the platinum rule -- treat others not as you would like to be treated but as they would like to be treated. My ancestors and family would like for the City of Hayward to listen, learn, accept and restore.