



# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## MARIAN JOHNSON

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

I believe that government agencies which made the decision to remove the citizens of Russell City had plans for that space and removal of the families in Russell City was the objective they put in place to execute the plans they had developed for that space which was Russell City.

The affect to my family: We were forced out - we were not given assistance to find shelter - we as home/property owners were forced to become renters due to neighborhood/residential restrictions that prevented African Americans from purchasing homes and/or renting in many of the adjacent communities. This affect, to my family, was the loss of home and property equity and generational wealth within our entire family the loss of living in a community where we felt safe and where we were surrounded by family and friends.

### **What is your connection to the Russell City Community?**

At birth I was a resident of Russell City. My parents, Grand parents, and Great Grand parents were residents and property owners of Russell City.

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

I have more than 15+ years experience in community based service working with Alameda County Social Service as a Services Support Specialist managing Adult Services Client Cases with an emphasis on matching clients with the services and service providers they needed to live safely in their home and community. I have more than 20+ years experience managing the practices for Principals Partners within national and International law firms - with the skill set for: meeting management, vendor contracting, building cross-functional teams and commitment to organizational objectives.

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

Respondent skipped this question



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

As it relates to teamwork - while working with Alameda County - our department worked in a team effort to assist our clients from the clients initial sign up through to yearly renewal to ensure the safety of Adults in need of County services. On a more local scale I have volunteered at Liberation Park in Oakland Ca from the start of the project in 2020 to feed people in our community during the pandemic then on to the opening of the onsite Akoma Market. I have since transitioned from hands on on-site participation and activity to training a replacement for those activities and transitioning into becoming an advisor for future projects related to the Black Cultural Zone.

### **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?**

It is my goal to be one of the representatives for former citizens of the Russell City community to work as a member of this team to provide perspective and give a voice for those who were made voiceless even after their testimonies to the Board. It is my intention to dig deep to resolve the question of what we should achieve in this process. I plan to do all I can to honor those which are no longer here to speak about what should be the outcome for reparative justice to the residents and descendants of the Russell City Community.

Marian Johnson