



What does reparations for the former residents and descendants of Russell City look like to you?

At this juncture I don't have a reliable answer to what reparations/restoration would, in fact, actually look like. However, in my own dream scenario reparations/restoration would involve one or more of the following: financial restitution paid directly to former residents and their descendants; the establishment of a nonprofit agency, and an endowment that would finance the education or business start-ups for former residents and descendants. Among other tasks, the nonprofit would work to assist others facing similar circumstances and would work on a national level to increase awareness about and fight against similar atrocities.

The outright return of the land to former property owners (as in the case of Bruce Beach in Southern California) is also among my desired outcomes. Upon return of the land, stipulations to provide the former owners - free of charge - with the needed physical and human resources to develop/manage their newly reclaimed land would be critical.

An additional restorative measure I'd like to see is the creation of one or more major commemorative projects, such as a Community Center named for Russell City; and/or that the name Russell City be restored to the original land mass; or that a high school be named after Russell City, or something of this nature. Yet another restorative action I would like explored would be to require the current businesses/occupants to pay former Russell Citizens/their descendants rental use of the space, retroactively to the year of their occupation.

I would also push to do what is necessary to ensure that the City of Hayward commit to this process to it's completion, no matter what City leaders are in office.

These are goals which I can't commit to due to my limited knowledge of laws related to real estate, City governance, etc. What is legally feasible toward restoration will ultimately be discovered. However, if voted on the Committee I can say that I would push to the best of my ability toward making former Russell City residents and their descendants whole.

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