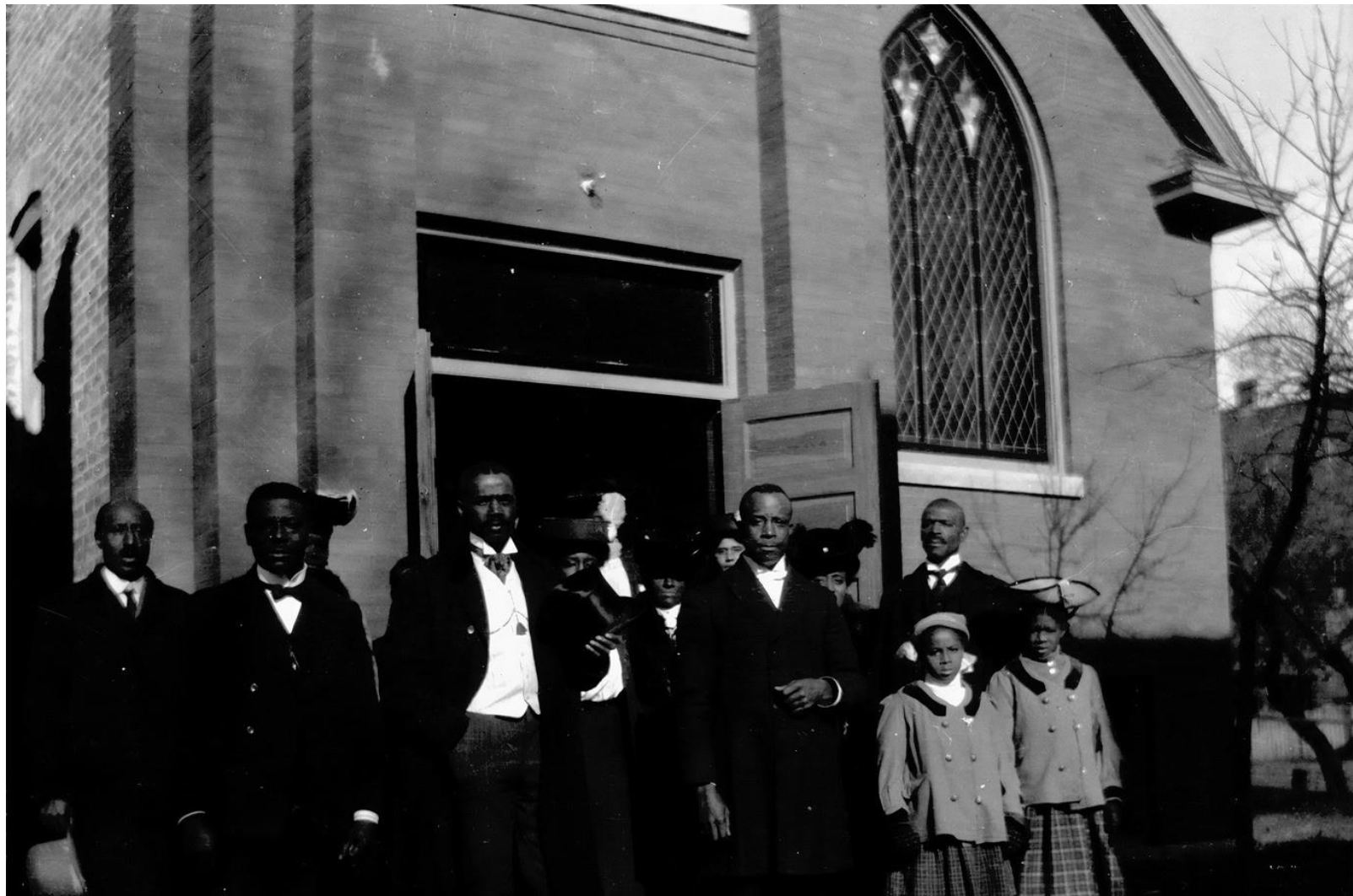


History of Harms done to the Black Community of Oak Park And Suggested Repairs



Presented July, 16, 2024 to the Village Board by
The Oak Park Reparations Task Force



Making the Case for Reparations: Harms Caused by the Village of Oak Park

- Rescinding the building permit for Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, forcing sale of church's land at Cuyler and Chicago (1903)
- Uncompensated loss of land occupied by Mt. Carmel Baptist church (December, 1928)
- Failure to protect or investigate the destruction of cultural and community center, religious school, meeting space, concert hall, recreation center (1929-31)
- Destruction of Black businesses on Williams Street (1929-30)
- Formation of Westgate commercial district, which has fed local tax revenues over 90 years, without compensation for the land, and is now quite valuable (1930 - present)
- Stifling growth of Black community by limiting integration through housing policies (1930-present)
- Exploiting the Percy Julian legacy for optics (1954 - present)
- Interfering with sale of 1st Church of Christ Scientist (now New Church) to a Black congregation, (January, 1987- March 1988)
- How to repair? See pages 23 - 25 of the report (scan QR code that follows)

Historical Harms to the Black Community of Oak Park, IL

Scan for the
text of the
report:



Why a Restorative Approach? Why Reparations now?

1 Current racial equity initiatives fall short.

2 America has granted reparations in the past: Belinda S, 1783; Special Field Order #15, 1862; J. Forman's Black Manifesto, 1969; Japanese Americans, 1988; victims of 1923 Rosewood, FL riots, 1994

3 America needs a reparative approach:

- Cessation and Assurance
- Satisfaction
- Rehabilitation
- Restitution
- Compensation

4 Nothing else has worked to improve the health, social capital and wealth of Black folk.



What we are asking of the Village of Oak Park

- **An official apology from the Board to Black residents past and present for policies, practices, procedures that harmed the Black community**
- Partner with financial institutions to create low-interest loan and downpayment assistance program for Black residents and other housing related services to the Black community, prioritizing descendants of early Black residents
- **Commit 50% of all Inclusionary Zoning funds to a Percy Julian Restorative Justice Fund and Foundation, to be spent as follows:**
 - \$350,000 start up funds (see proposed budget slide)
 - Buy the Percy Julian family home from the Julians, agreeing that Faith Julian can live there until her death
 - The Foundation will occupy it, creating a Black Cultural Center and Space (ala Cheney Mansion, Pleasant Home models)

Percy Julian Restorative Justice Foundation

Overview:

The Percy Julian Restorative Justice Foundation will be a 501(c)(3) charitable non profit organization dedicated to preserving history and assisting the Black people of Oak Park who have historically faced terror and discrimination.

Mission:

The Percy Julian Restorative Justice Fund raises awareness and resources to repair the effects of discrimination and racism against the Black community of Oak Park. We do this by preserving the historic Percy Julian Home, elevating Black voices, implementing reparative programming and advocating for a restorative justice based approach to heal community wounds and chart an equitable path forward

Vision:

An Oak Park where there are no Barriers to Equity or Equality

Strategic Priorities:

1. Preserve and be custodians of the Percy Julian Historic Home located on the North West corner of Chicago and East Ave in Oak Park, IL
2. Honor and uplift the legacy of Dr. Percy Julian, his descendants and all the Black residents who've historically or currently face discrimination and racism.
3. Fund reparative and restorative justice programs and initiatives in Oak Park, IL
4. Advocate for policy and funding for reparative and restorative justice initiatives in the Oak Park community.

Additional Details:

Legal Status: The Percy Julian Restorative Justice Fund will be a 501(c)(3) charitable non profit organization.

Est 1st Year Budget: \$600,000

Start Up Funds: \$350,000. Funds will be used to hire a full time Executive Director, Director of Development and Director of Community Outreach, youth internships, 501(c)(3) filing costs, misc.

\$250,000 from Inclusionary Zoning Fund- Funds will be used for the Restorative Housing Program

\$350,000 Spent on Migrants in Oak Park



What will the Village commit to its voting, tax-paying, long-term Black residents?

NEWS

Village approves \$200K for Grace, other migrants' short-term rentals

The amount is double the original proposal to aid migrants staying at Grace Episcopal Church until March 15



by Luzane Draughon March 11, 2024 Updated March 14, 2024



The Community of Congregations is trying to ensure all individuals at Grace have leases and can avoid going to the City of Chicago's [landing zone](#), an area where transportation vehicles with migrants drop off new arrivals.

The organization [already received](#) \$150,000 in village funds and \$300,000 from a Supporting Municipalities for Asylum Seeker Services grant for migrant rental assistance. The grant funds must be spent by June 30, but village funds do not have those constraints, Shelley said.



A Black community lived in the heart of Oak Park's downtown district before a series of suspicious fires tied to white

Will the Village of Oak Park choose to rest on its laurels?

or....

Will the Village choose to engage, pioneer and be a social justice lighthouse going forward? Will it support grassroots organizing and public policy to build a truly racially integrated community.?

"In the years since the passage of the Fair Housing Ordinance, the pursuit of racial inclusion has become a prominent part of Oak Park's identity. It has been an imperfect process of managed integration that is still ongoing. Today, a socioeconomically, racially, and religiously diverse range of people call Oak Park home, including a visible LGBTQIA+ community and sizable Black, Jewish, Asian, and Latino populations. However, disparities remain, fueling ongoing community conversations, grassroots advocacy, and government action to ensure that Oak Park lives up to its contemporary reputation as a progressive community rooted in intentional inclusivity."

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Thank You!