



City of South Pasadena
1414 Mission Street
South Pasadena, CA 91030
www.southpasadenaca.gov

NEWS RELEASE
February 16, 2022

Contact: Tamara Binns, Assistant to the City Manager
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Sundown Town Resolution 7750

SOUTH PASADENA, (Calif.) – On February 2, 2022 the South Pasadena City Council approved Resolution No. 7750 Condemning the City’s History as a Sundown Town and Past Practices of Institutionalized Racism. The Resolution will be posted online, and social media.

The 5-0 Council vote in support of the Resolution included the following recommendations;

1. Adopt a resolution entitled “Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Pasadena Condemning the City’s History as a Sundown Town and Past Practices of Institutionalized Racism”; and
2. Direct staff to attend information sessions on the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE) and discuss the membership with our neighboring cities; and
3. Direct staff to engage in the following Equity-Developing Activities:
 - a. Review the deeds of properties currently owned by the City or owned in the future in coordination with LA County Registrar Recorder adoption and implementation plan; remove any existing racially restrictive housing covenants; and for any property purchased in the future remove the racially restrictive housing covenant prior accepting property;

- b. Hire artists to perform at the Music in the Parks reflecting a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, countries, and sounds;
- c. Support an annual community forum in demonstration of South Pasadena’s commitment to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the community; hosted by Assistant to the City Manager Tamara Binns;
- d. Continue to support the spirit of inclusionary initiatives proposed by county legislation, budget proposals, and policies that would reverse past racist policies and reduce racial disparities consistent with this Resolution, and actively oppose state and county legislation, budget proposals, and policies that would impede the goals of the Resolution Condemning the City’s History as a Sundown Town and Past Practices of Institutionalized Racism”;
- e. Continue to promote diversity in the membership of city commissions; and
- f. Continue to provide diversity, equity, and inclusion training for all city employees.

Residents are welcome to attend the upcoming Government Alliance on Race & Equity information session being held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 10am Pacific and Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 10am Pacific. Please click the link [here](#) to register.

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RESOLUTION NO. 7750

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, CONDEMNING THE CITY'S HISTORY AS A SUNDOWN TOWN AND PAST PRACTICES OF INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM

WHEREAS, in the 20th century, many towns throughout the state of California, along with towns and cities in many other states became known as "Sundown Towns" because of their practice of excluding members of non-white racial and ethnic groups, from living in said jurisdictions or even being inside the city limits after sundown, often by social and cultural means, and through government action, including police profiling and enhanced enforcement;

WHEREAS, various practices and events in the history of the City of South Pasadena have been identified as creating such a circumstance to identify the City of South Pasadena as having been a Sundown Town;

WHEREAS, such circumstances and events include the following:

○ On October 23, 1911, City Council members Jacobs, Vatcher, Wilson, and Adams voted to block an orphanage for Black children being established in the City;

○ In 1941, a race restriction campaign was established by a non-profit committee, "South Pasadenans Inc.", was aided by the City. The purpose of the committee was to restrict non-white citizens from purchasing homes;

○ In 1942, in response to Executive Order 9066 requiring the relocation of persons of Japanese ancestry, 165 Japanese-American residents of South Pasadena were forced to evacuate South Pasadena. There is not clarity as to what happened to homes that were evacuated by these residents. In 1942, Mayor A.O. Porter simply commented that the City does not have control of these properties. Many were either sold in duress by the families before leaving or sat vacant until the families returned;

○ In 1955, Susan McClain, a 9-year-old African-American girl, was denied entry to the Orange Grove Plunge. According to a lawsuit filed against the City, the girl was not permitted entry due to a Recreation Department rule "barring Negroes".

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of South Pasadena acknowledges government policies and historic racism has had a direct impact on income inequality;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of South Pasadena understands the importance of examining what role the City previously has played in institutional racism, and is ready to embark on a journey towards racial literacy and reconciliation;

WHEREAS, the City of South Pasadena is a racially and ethnically diverse city, with a racial composition of roughly 36% White, 38% Asian, 21% Hispanic, 3% Black, and 2% of other race based on the estimated 2020 Census data; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of South Pasadena envisions a city in which each person regardless of their racial or ethnic background has equal opportunity to thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of South Pasadena acknowledges, apologizes for, and condemns all racist aspects of the City's history, and deeply regrets the pain, hurt, and suffering such policies have caused;

SECTION 2. The City of South Pasadena will continue to promote inclusion and equity, and will stand up to bigotry, hatred, intolerance, racism, and violence as reaffirmed in Resolution 7673 dated August 5, 2020;

SECTION 3. The City will evaluate policies, procedures, ordinances, programs, goals, and missions to foster an unbiased and inclusive environment where no person or group is subject to discrimination, harassment, or disproportionate economic harm on the basis of race, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

SECTION 4. Review the deeds of properties currently owned by the City or owned in the future in coordination with LA County Registrar Recorder adoption and implementation plan; remove any existing racially restrictive housing covenants; and for any property purchased in the future to remove the racially restrictive housing covenant prior to accepting property;

SECTION 5. The City will hire artists to perform at the Music in the Parks reflecting a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, countries, and sounds;

SECTION 6. The City will support and host an annual community forum in demonstration of South Pasadena's commitment to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the community;

SECTION 7. The City will continue to support the spirit of inclusionary initiatives to review state and county legislation, budget proposals, and policies that would reverse past racist policies and reduce racial disparities consistent with this Resolution, and actively oppose state and county legislation, budget proposals, and policies that would impede the goals of this Resolution;

SECTION 8. The City will continue to promote diversity in the membership of city commissions and ad hoc committees;

SECTION 9. The City will continue to provide diversity, equity, and inclusion training for all city employees;

SECTION 10. The City Clerk of the City of South Pasadena shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and its approval by the City Council and shall cause the same to be listed in the records of the City.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON this 2nd day of February, 2022.

DocuSigned by:
Michael A. Cacciotti
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Michael Cacciotti, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:
Christina Muñoz
BDCE537AC2E8433...
Christina Muñoz, Deputy City Clerk

DocuSigned by:
Andrew Jared
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Andrew Jared, City Attorney

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of South Pasadena, California, at a regular meeting held on the 2nd day of February 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Mahmud, Zneimer, Donovan, Primuth, Cacciotti

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

DocuSigned by:

Christina Muñoz

BDCE537AC2E8433...

Christina Munoz, Deputy City Clerk