

The Freedom Plan – A Proposal for Reparations

The Freedom Plan consists of five basic parts.

The first one is to form a real estate investment trust (reit). The Freedom Reit shall provide financing and mortgage loans to purchase, build and rehabilitate housing, commercial structures and other properties for Black people and their organizations.

The Freedom Education Fund, the second part, shall be a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity that provides scholarships and loans to students for higher education at a college or university as well for vocational training. In addition to financing the Fund shall provide direct assistance to students at all levels of education with tutoring, counseling similar to the PACT Upward Bound program in California. This fund will assist HBCUs with grants and loans.

The Freedom Health Care and Welfare Fund, the third part, shall be a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity that shall provide financial assistance to individuals entering the health care industry as nurses, doctors, dentists and related fields to pay for training and related expenses. The operation of this Fund shall include providing direct financial aid to individuals and families for health insurance and other medical costs. The proceeds from this Fund can be used to provide grants to qualified individuals acquire transportation and other personal needs.

The Freedom Venture Capital Group shall be a venture capital organization which will provide financing for existing companies and new starting businesses owned by Black people. This group shall assist their clients with consultants and accountants to help the business owners achieve success. This group shall establish a bank to receive savings deposits and handle other transactions.

The fifth part is a Truth and Reconciliation Group formed by the leadership of the interfaith community. The group shall meet quarterly to discuss the historical basis for reparations and the effects of racial abuse upon Black citizens. The mission of the Truth and Reconciliation Group is to build trust among white and Black people by revealing the harmful effects of centuries of chattel slavery, segregation and racial discrimination.

The five parts listed above shall be independent of any political or legislative structures. Each one shall be controlled by a voting trust with Black members composing a minimum of eighty-five percent of the trust. The City of Evanston shall have representation on the trust

The city, state and federal governments shall provide the bulk of the funds required. The corporate community and civic minded individuals shall contribute as well.