

NEWS

Congresswoman Waters Introduces Resolution to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Los Angeles 1992 Insurrection

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, who was deeply involved in the response to the 1992 insurrection in Los Angeles, announced that she is introducing a resolution in the House of Representatives to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Los Angeles 1992 Insurrection.

“Thirty years ago, we witnessed Los Angeles Police Department officers savagely beat an unarmed black man, Rodney King, while 17 police officers watched and did nothing to stop the brutal beating.” said Congresswoman Waters. “I could not believe my eyes back then and to this day that no one came to Mr. King’s aid. Furthermore, it was clear that police officers could care less about Mr. King’s life, and in doing so, provided additional evidence

to people across this country of the injustices Black people suffer at the hands of police. What’s more, the acquittal of the police officers that denied the footage we had seen was just wrong, and the insurrection that followed was an outcry by people who had been forgotten, who had been denied opportunities, jobs, and wealth and now through this verdict had to accept police abuse.

“When the insurrection broke out, I immediately went into the public housing developments and worked tirelessly to try to get diapers, food, and milk for children. As I walked the public housing developments, I demanded that electricity and water be restored, and urged the Department of Justice to file civil rights charges against the recently acquitted police officers. I was out on the streets explaining to anyone that would listen that people had a right to be angry. I

redirected the conversation to use that moment to expose that people had been forgotten and found themselves trying to provide for their kids and find jobs.

“My fighting against police abuse dates back to the extensive organizing and rallying to confront former Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates in response to abusive tactics against Black men and women in the Los Angeles area.

“I have continuously used my voice to oppose police abuse and support police reforms such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the House last year and is now awaiting action in the Senate. Even though the Senate has not yet passed it, I will keep fighting so our voices are heard and will continue to demand justice to prevent what happened to Rodney King from happening to anyone again.”



Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and Queen Latifah Break Ground on New Affordable Housing Development

Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Newark native Queen Latifah and several officials broke ground Monday on the new Rise Living affordable housing development.

The new development Rise Living is a collaboration between Life Assets Development, Gonsosa, and the BlueSugar Corporation, which was co-founded by Queen Latifah, a native of Newark. The development complements a citywide initiative to revitalize the face of Newark and provide beautiful modern housing to its residents. Officials say several properties along 19th Avenue, South 16th Street, and South 17th Street into modern housing and mixed-use spaces.

The buildings will include a fitness center, business center, charging sta-

tions for electric vehicles, and ground floor parking spaces. 16 units will be classified as affordable housing, and market-rate rents are set to start at \$1,800. Modern amenities will include touchless entry and free wifi in all common areas, online portals for maintenance and rent payment, washers and dryers in units, hardwood floors, green roofs in selected units, air-conditioning, stainless-steel appliances, and more.

Work has already begun on the site at 650 Springfield Avenue in January of 2022. The Groundbreaking ceremony will initiate the next phase of work on the site, leading to an eventual 76 units as well as 1,900 square feet of ground-floor space for non-profit organizations. Pre-leasing is expected to commence in July of 2022.



Harvard Pledges \$100 Million to Atone for Role in Slavery

BOSTON (AP) — Harvard University is vowing to spend \$100 million to research and atone for its extensive ties with slavery, the school’s president announced Tuesday, with plans to identify and support the descendants of enslaved people who labored at the Ivy League campus.

President Lawrence Bacow announced the funding as Harvard released a new report detailing many ways the college benefited from slavery and perpetuated BOSTON (AP) — Harvard University is vowing to spend \$100 million to research and atone for its extensive ties with slavery, the school’s president announced Tuesday racial inequality.

The report, commissioned by Bacow, found that Harvard’s faculty, staff and leaders enslaved more than 70 Black and Native American people from the school’s founding in 1636 to 1783. It cautions that the figure is “almost certainly an undercount.” Using historical records, researchers were able to identify dozens of enslaved people by name, along with their connection to the university.

“Enslaved men and women served Harvard presidents and professors and fed and cared for Harvard students,” researchers found. “Moreover, throughout this period and well into the 19th century, the University and its donors benefited from extensive financial ties to slavery.”

The report says the university “should make a significant monetary commitment, and it should invest in remedies of equal or greater breadth than other universities.” But the report stops short of recommending direct financial reparations, and officials have no immediate plans for that kind of support.

Bacow said Harvard will attempt to redress its wrongs through “teaching,

research and service.” He is creating a committee to implement the report’s suggestions.

Building on earlier research at Harvard, the report details how the nation’s oldest and wealthiest college profited from the slave trade throughout its early history. It invested directly in the sugar and rum industries in the Caribbean, and the cotton and railroad industries in the United States. It also depended on wealthy donors who accumulated their wealth through the slave trade and industries that relied on it.

Later, after slavery was abolished, prominent scholars continued to promote concepts that fueled ideas of white supremacy, the report says. It cites work by 19th century professor Louis Agassiz, who pushed discredited theories on “race science” and eugenics. Another scholar led a “physical education” program on campus that collected students’ physical measurements to advance eugenic theories.

In his message, Bacow called the findings “disturbing and shocking,” and he acknowledged that the school “perpetuated practices that were profoundly immoral.”

“Consequently, I believe we bear a moral responsibility to do what we can to address the persistent corrosive effects of those historical practices on individuals, on Harvard, and on our society,” he wrote.

The 130-page report included a series of recommendations that Bacow endorsed. The \$100 million will be used to carry out the work, including some funding that will be available now and more to be held in an endowment. The university itself has an endowment of more than \$50 billion, the largest in the nation.

The report calls on Harvard to identify the direct descendants of enslaved people and engage with them “through dialogue, programming, information sharing, relationship building, and educational support.”

“Through such efforts, these descendants can recover their histories, tell their stories and pursue empowering knowledge,” the report said.

In acknowledgement of the enslavement of Native Americans, the report also calls on Harvard to build closer ties with New England tribes. Harvard should recruit more students from tribal communities, the report says, and organize a national conference promoting research on colonialism and the enslavement of Indigenous people.

The report calls on Harvard to help address racial inequities in the United States and the Caribbean, including through expanded education programs for underserved communities. And it urges the university to build closer relationships with historically Black colleges across the country, with funding to bring students and scholars to Harvard for up to a year at a time.

Harvard joins a growing number of U.S. universities taking steps to acknowledge and make amends for their involvement with slavery.

Georgetown University in 2019 promised to raise \$400,000 a year for the descendants of enslaved people sold



by the school. The Princeton Theological Seminary created a \$27.6 million reparative endowment. The University of Virginia established scholarships for the descendants of enslaved people.

Harvard formally began exploring its ties to slavery in 2016, when former President Drew Gilpin Faust acknowledged that the school was “directly complicit in America’s system of racial bondage.” Faust organized a committee to study the topic and had a plaque installed on campus honoring enslaved people who labored there.

Bacow commissioned the new report in 2019, building on that work.

“The Harvard that I have known, while far from perfect, has always tried to be better — to bring our lived experience ever closer to our high ideals,” Bacow wrote. “In releasing this report and committing ourselves to following through on its recommendations, we continue a long tradition of embracing the challenges before us.

Summer Reach

The deadline to apply for Summer Reach is May 6th! Don’t miss out on this great learning opportunity for your student. The Reach program will operate Monday through Friday from 8:00 - 3:00 for elementary school and 8:45 - 2:30 for middle school. Students will receive a free lunch every day, and transportation will be provided.

Enroll your child for six free weeks of fun and learning at <https://www.hcde.org/academics/summerreach>





## PreK Application Day

Beginning April 6th, 2022

- Applications are currently available on our district website, [www.hcde.org](http://www.hcde.org) and at schools with PreK classrooms.
- We will begin accepting applications on April 6th .
- Parents MUST bring a completed application, child's birth certificate, 2 proofs of residency, child's social security card, child's immunization record with proof of physical, and proof of income.



Scan Here for the HCDE Website



## Camp K

June 20th - July 15th

- Camp K is a 4-week program for students who will enter Kindergarten in August.
- Parents must commit to attending a minimum of 2 Parent Meetings during the 4-week camp.
- Information and applications will be available on April 6th at Hamilton County elementary schools and at our district website [www.hcde.org](http://www.hcde.org).



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