

CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS
CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2598

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING H.R. 40, INTRODUCED IN THE
108TH SESSION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, AN ACT CITED AS
"COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATIONS PROPOSALS FOR
AFRICAN-AMERICANS ACT"

1 *WHEREAS*, approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in
2 the United States and the colonies which became the United States from 1619 to 1865; and

3 *WHEREAS*, the institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by
4 the government of the United States from 1789 through 1865; and

5 *WHEREAS*, the slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and
6 inhumane deprivation of Africans' life, liberty, Africans' citizenship rights and cultural heritage,
7 and denied them the fruit of their own labor; and

8 *WHEREAS*, sufficient inquiry has not been made into the effects of the institution of
9 slavery on living African-Americans and the society in the United States; and

10 ~~*WHEREAS*~~, Japanese-Americans, after a study, received an apology and restitution
11 through Public Law No. 100-383, the Civil Liberties Act of 1998, entitled "Restitution for World
12 War II internment of Japanese-Americans and Aliens;" and

13 *WHEREAS*, Italian-Americans have received consideration in Public Law No. 106-451,
14 entitled "Wartime Violations of Italian-American Civil Liberties Act," which orders a report
15 "detailing injustices suffered by Italian-Americans during World War II, and a formal
16 acknowledgment of such injustices by the president; and

17 *WHEREAS*, African-Americans have received from the U.S. Government and its
18 predecessors, since at least 1619, only ongoing contempt and relentless racism; and

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
20 **CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS:**

21 Section 1. The U.S. Government should make a formal acknowledgment of the
22 Holocaust of African captivity, enslavement and subsequent terrorism during a century of legally
23 sanctioned Jim Crow.

24 Section 2. The U.S. Government should make a formal apology for these crimes.

25 Section 3. There should be a formal recognition of the horrors of slavery through
26 monuments, education and other means.

1 Section 4. The U.S. Government should make restitution to living African-Americans
2 for slavery and its effects, as contemplated in H.R. 40, an Act cited as the "Commission to Study
3 Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act."

4 Section 5. Measures to prevent a recurrence of the wrongful acts of the past should be
5 adopted.

6 Section 6. The City Clerk shall promptly forward a copy of this Resolution to the
7 following individuals and organization: (a) National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in
8 America, Post Office Box 42765, Philadelphia, PA 19101; (b) the Honorable John Conyers Jr.,
9 United States Representative, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; and (c)
10 the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, United States Representative, Chair, Congressional Black
11 Caucus, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

12 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 3rd DAY OF November, 2003.

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14
15 ATTEST: _____
16 CITY CLERK

MAYOR

17
18 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
19 _____
20 CITY ATTORNEY
21

SPONSOR