



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Kellee Coleman, Acting Chief Equity Office *K.C.*

**THROUGH:** Jason Alexander, Chief of Staff

**DATE:** August 26, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Update on Black Dispossession Study (Resolution No. 20210304-067)

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This memo provides a follow up to the [memo](#) issued on March 11, 2022 related to [Resolution No. 20210304-067](#), which, among several things, asks the City Manager to conduct a study (referred to as the Black Dispossession Study) outlining the economic value of the harm caused through economic, health, environmental, criminal injustice, and other racial disparities and declination of resources by the City.

A research team, led by Dr. Edmond Gordon, has completed an initial phase of the Black Dispossession Study and remaining phases are ongoing. Through thorough review and analysis of available archives, the team was able to map and catalog the cumulative dispossession of Black landownership between 1920 and today across four communities in and around the University of Texas – Clarksville, Wheatville, Red River, and East Campus. Similar efforts to map and catalog the full city continue, and staff looks forward to coordinating with the researchers to provide those findings to council upon completion. In the meantime, the Equity Office is happy to help connect Council offices with representatives from the research team for a more detailed discussion of the preliminary body of work and the methodology used.

In addition, the work to explore possible sites to serve as a Black Resource and Cultural Center, including City-owned properties, continues. As part of this work, the Equity Office is engaging other City departments and plans to convene stakeholders to gain insights into the potential scope of resources and services such a center might offer as well as the operational expectations. Staff will continue to keep City Council updated as this work progresses.

For further information please contact me at [Kellee.Coleman@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kellee.Coleman@austintexas.gov).

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Anne Morgan, Acting City Manager