



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 2/7/2023

New Business

Department: County Manager's Office

Presenter(s): DK Wesley

Contact(s): DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager

Subject: Authorization to Develop a Scope of Work for an Official Audit in Response to the Community Reparations Commission's Immediate Recommendation to cease harm impacting the African American community

Brief Summary: At its December 5, 2022 meeting, the Community Reparations Commission unanimously approved an immediate recommendation for Buncombe County and the City of Asheville to stop further harm by ceasing the repetition of institutional processes that lead to racially disparate outcomes. This recommendation included conducting an official audit to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, regulatory bodies, codes of conduct, court orders, and consent decrees.

The intent from the Community Reparations Commission is for the County and City to select an independent third-party firm to conduct the audit. The proposed resolution directs the County Manager to work collaboratively with City of Asheville and the Community Reparations Commission to develop a scope of work, which will ultimately be used in a formal solicitation to select a firm to conduct the audit. The proposed resolution also commits and provides assurances that necessary and reasonable action will be taken to address intentional and unintentional harm committed against the African American community. Upon resolution adoption, County staff will work collaboratively to finalize the scope of work and advertise a solicitation for selection of a firm. Upon audit completion, the resolution directs the County Manager to review audit findings and evaluate remediation opportunities.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Authorize the County Manager to develop a scope of work for an official audit in response to the Community Reparations Commission's Immediate Recommendation to cease harm impacting the African American Community.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: Approve as recommended.