

Reparations Now!

Legal Services of New Jersey
Justice Series

13 September 2021

Ryan P. Haygood
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice



This Moment & The Way Forward



- How did we get here and what does this moment require of us?
- How do we collectively lift our voices to seize this moment and to emerge stronger together?
- How do we collectively advocate to build systems that repair harm, create wealth, transform justice and harness democratic power—from the ground up—in New Jersey?



The **cracks** of structural **racism** are erupting as **earthquakes** in **Black** and other **communities of color**.

We must repair the cracks and build a new foundation.

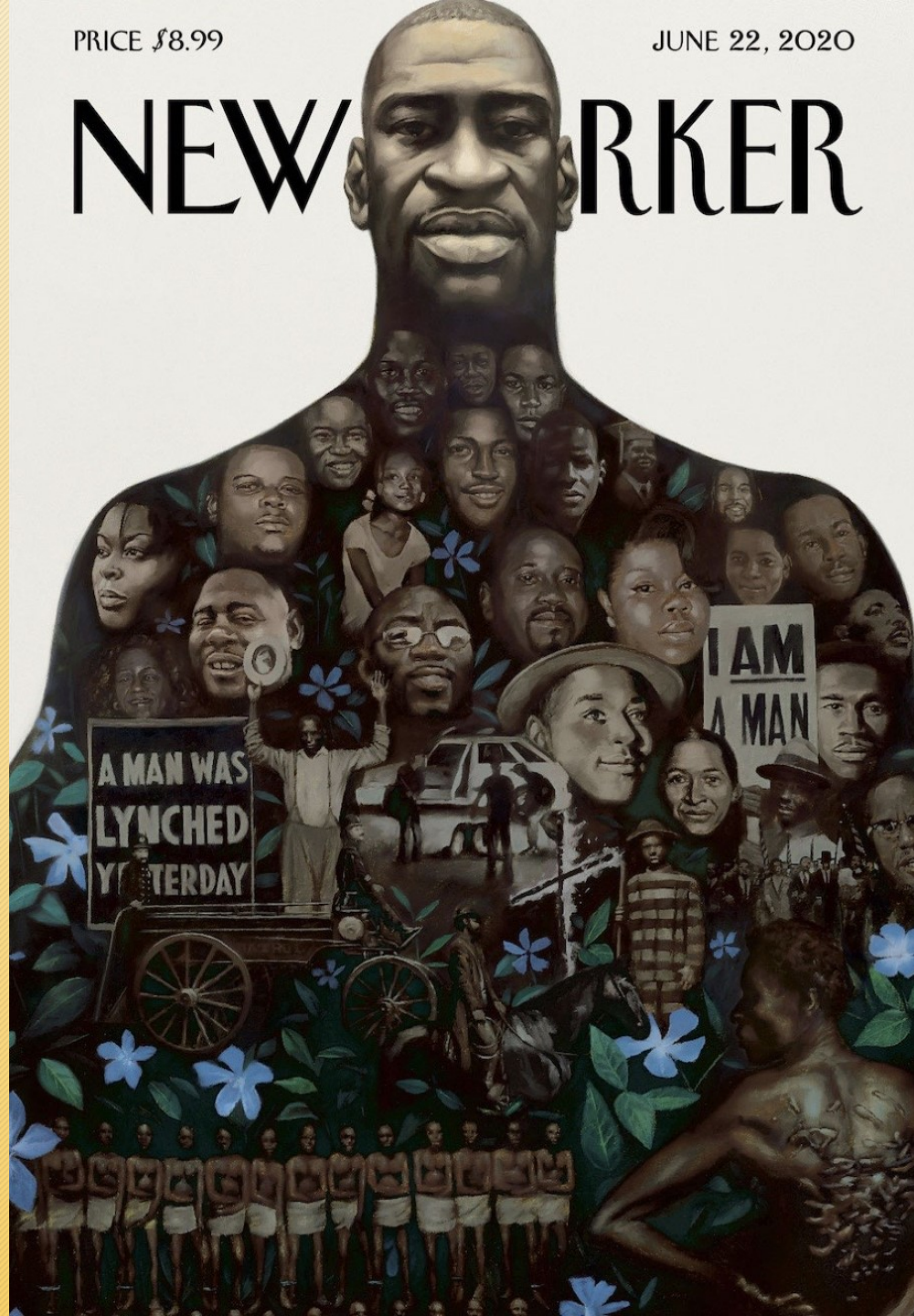


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NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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BLACK IN NEW JERSEY 2021-2022 ACTION AGENDA

>3:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE INFANT MORTALITY
HIGHEST DISPARITY IN U.S.

>2:1 BLACK TO WHITE LIKELIHOOD OF
COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATION

62% PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE DENIED
THE VOTE WHO ARE BLACK (VS 15% POPULATION)

12:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE ADULTS INCARCERATED
HIGHEST DISPARITY IN U.S.

21:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE KIDS LOCKED UP
HIGHEST DISPARITY IN U.S.

3:1 BLACK TO WHITE LIKELIHOOD
OF FACING POLICE FORCE

SIXTH MOST SEGREGATED STATE
IN THE NATION FOR BLACK STUDENTS

\$106,210 VS **\$179**
MEDIAN NET WEALTH OF WHITE RESIDENTS
BLACK AND LATINA/LATINO

\$352,000 VS **\$6,100** FOR BLACK FAMILIES
\$7,300 FOR LATINA/LATINO FAMILIES
WHITE FAMILY MEDIAN NET WEALTH
HIGHEST IN AMERICA









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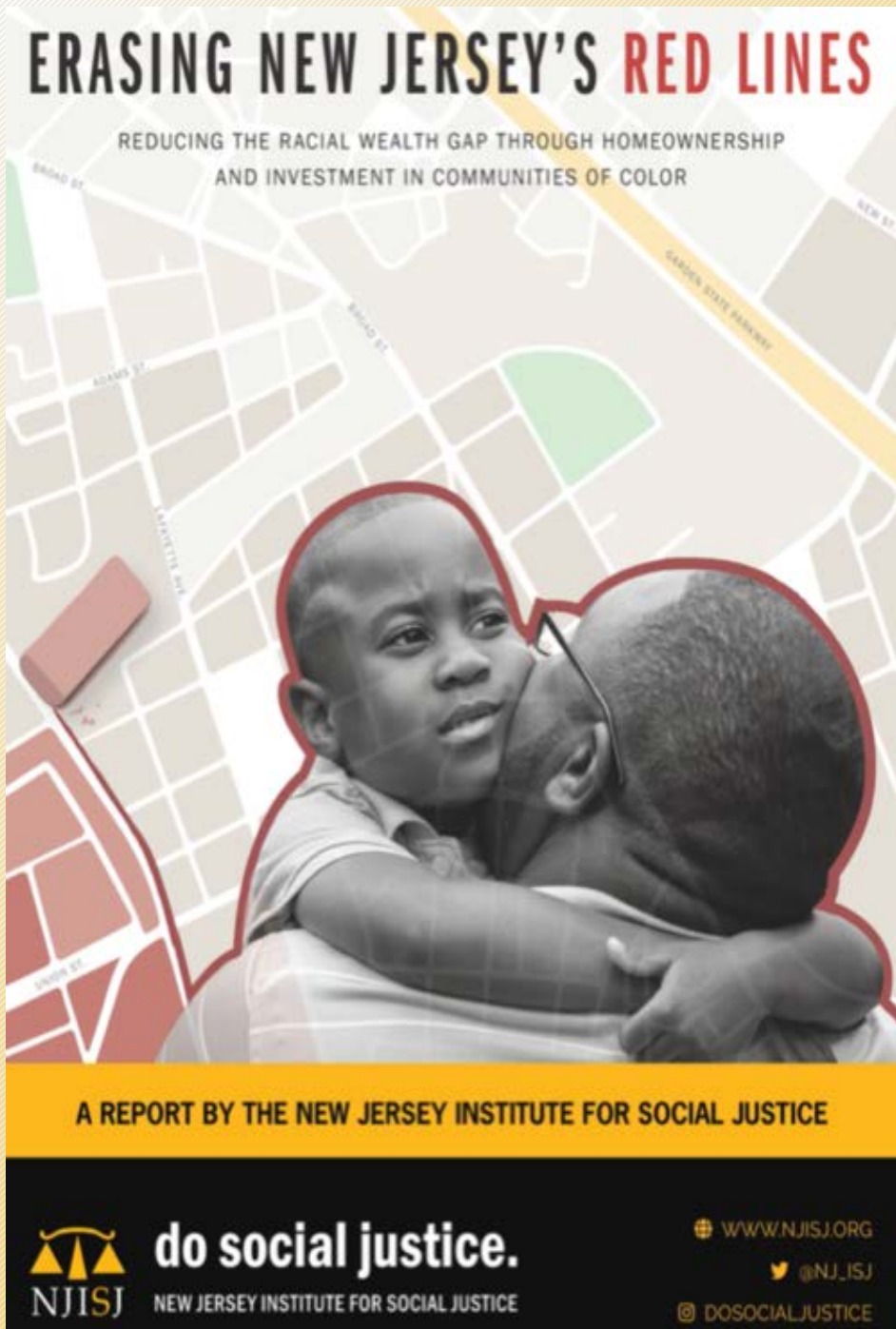
The net wealth for Black people in NJ is 179 dollars.

Less than a laptop.

It's \$106,210 for NJ's white people.

NJ designed it that way during slavery.





From its founding as a colony, New Jersey created a racially exclusive system for distributing property—which has led to the stark racial wealth gap we see today.



- New Jersey provided each English white settling family with *150 acres of land* and *additional 60 acres* for each enslaved Black person who worked on that land.
- By the 1800s, *more than two-thirds* of all enslaved Black people in the North were held captive here in New Jersey.
- And after becoming the last Northern state to end formal slavery, New Jersey *developed its own form of sharecropping*.

There is a direct line from the enslavement of Black people in New Jersey to:

- sharecropping;
- restrictive covenants;
- denial of homeownership opportunities through the GI Bill for Black WWII veterans;
- Jim Crow segregation;
- Redlining;
- Exclusionary zoning policies;
- Predatory lending practices;
- Today's racial wealth gap.

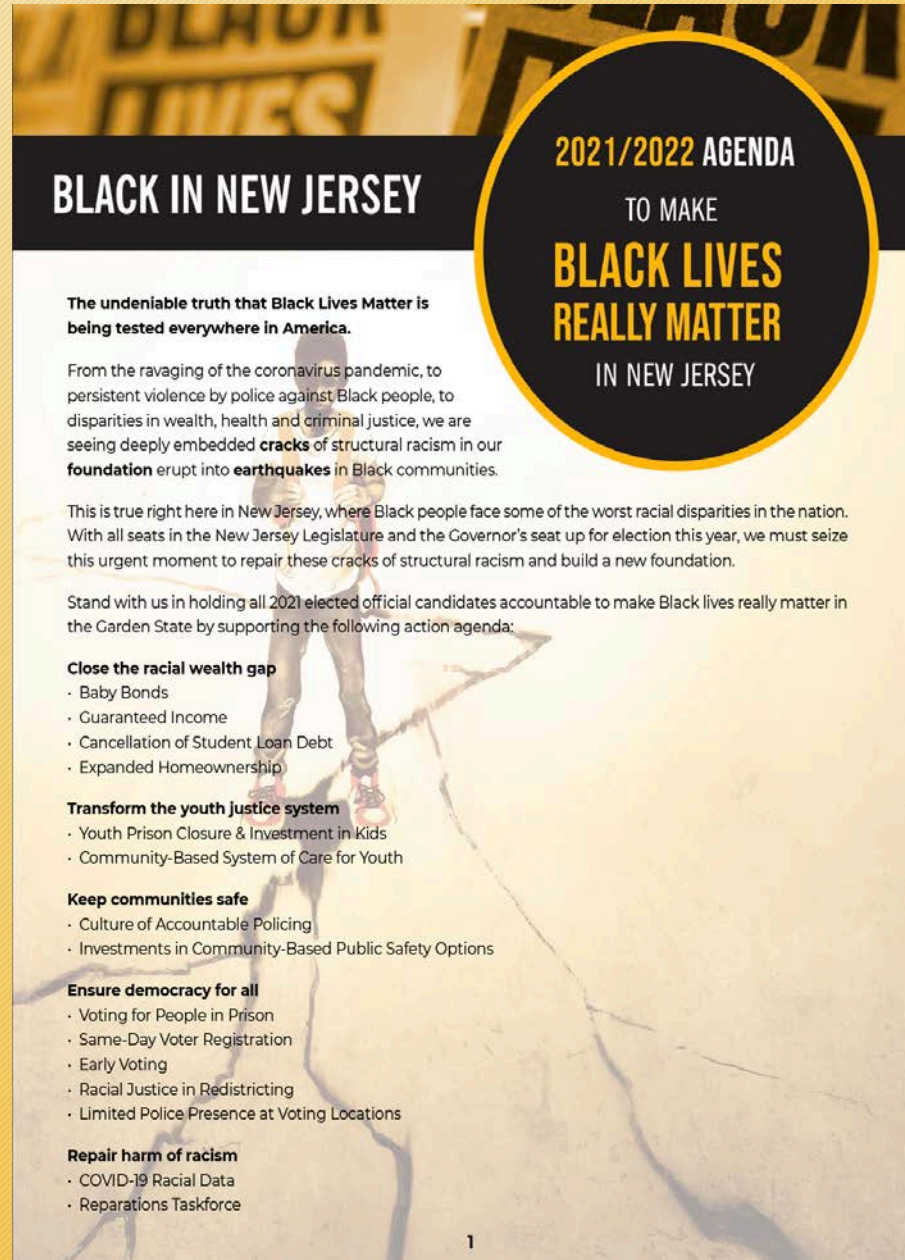
The way forward:
advocacy from
the ground up.



Black In New Jersey 2021-2022 Action Agenda

www.njisj.org

- Build Wealth
- Transform Justice
- Build Power
- Repair harm of racism



BLACK IN NEW JERSEY

2021/2022 AGENDA
TO MAKE
BLACK LIVES REALLY MATTER
IN NEW JERSEY

The undeniable truth that Black Lives Matter is being tested everywhere in America.

From the ravaging of the coronavirus pandemic, to persistent violence by police against Black people, to disparities in wealth, health and criminal justice, we are seeing deeply embedded **cracks** of structural racism in our **foundation** erupt into **earthquakes** in Black communities.

This is true right here in New Jersey, where Black people face some of the worst racial disparities in the nation. With all seats in the New Jersey Legislature and the Governor's seat up for election this year, we must seize this urgent moment to repair these cracks of structural racism and build a new foundation.

Stand with us in holding all 2021 elected official candidates accountable to make Black lives really matter in the Garden State by supporting the following action agenda:

Close the racial wealth gap

- Baby Bonds
- Guaranteed Income
- Cancellation of Student Loan Debt
- Expanded Homeownership

Transform the youth justice system

- Youth Prison Closure & Investment in Kids
- Community-Based System of Care for Youth

Keep communities safe

- Culture of Accountable Policing
- Investments in Community-Based Public Safety Options

Ensure democracy for all

- Voting for People in Prison
- Same-Day Voter Registration
- Early Voting
- Racial Justice in Redistricting
- Limited Police Presence at Voting Locations

Repair harm of racism

- COVID-19 Racial Data
- Reparations Taskforce

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N.J. to celebrate first Juneteenth as an official state holiday



By Ximena Conde · June 16, 2021



Say 'the word' this Juneteenth | Opinion

Updated: Jun. 15, 2021, 8:23 p.m. | Published: Jun. 13, 2021, 1:45 p.m.



Ryan P. Haygood, CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, says politicians have asked if they could call a reparations task force bill currently pending in the Legislature by another name. "Do you have to use that word?" they have asked. Our answer: Yes. Juneteenth, which will be a state holiday for the first time on Saturday, is a good time to start saying the word. (Illustration courtesy NJ Institute for Social Justice)

By Star-Ledger Guest Columnist



773 shares

By Ryan P. Haygood









“The
conversation
has to be
about
reparations.”

—Lieutenant
Governor Sheila Oliver



Take Action

Now:

400yearsnj.or



**“[W]hile we have our
eyes on the future,
history has its eyes on
us.”**

—Amanda Gorman