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.
BLACK IN NEW JERSEY
2021-2022 ACTION AGENDA

-3:1
BLACK TO HISPANIC HOSPITALIZATION RATIO

>2:1
BLACK TO HISPANIC HOSPITALIZATION RATIO

62%
PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE SERVING TIME IN U.S. PRISONS WHO ARE BLACK VS. 20% WHITE POPULATION

12:1
RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE ADULTS INCARCERATED

21:1
RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE KIDS LOCKED UP IN JUVENILE FACILITIES

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 VS BLACK AND LATINA/LATINO

$352,000 VS $6,100
WHITE FAMILY MEDIAN NET WEALTH HIGHEST IN AMERICA VS BLACK FAMILIES

$7,300 FOR LATINA/LATINO FAMILIES
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
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:
400years nj.org
“[W]hile we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.”

—Amanda Gorman