



## **Sharon L. McBride**

3rd District Council Member  
President

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM:** COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHARON L. MCBRIDE  
**SUBJECT:** PRESIDENT MCBRIDE TO FORM SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023  
**CONTACT:** [SMCBRIDE@SOUTHBENDIN.GOV](mailto:SMCBRIDE@SOUTHBENDIN.GOV)

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

#### ***President McBride to Form Special Committee***

Last month, I announced in a public statement that I would be forming a special committee, as the Municipal Code authorizes, to work collaboratively with stakeholders to address the important issues raised in this draft resolution. Dr. Darryl Heller, Director of the I.U. South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center has volunteered his time to chair this special committee.

It is necessary that an important resolution such as this is fully vetted prior to being brought to a Common Council vote. A premature vote can cause more damage than a fully informed vote.

There also may be no need to reinvent the wheel in addressing the issues raised in the resolution. On January 24, 2023, U.S. Senator Cory Booker introduced Senate Bill 40 the “Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act” which would establish a commission to consider proposals for reparations for African American descendants of slavery. The Senate Bill is a companion to House Bill 40 previously introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. Over 190 organizations working to advance civil rights in America have endorsed this legislation. There are also several states and municipalities that are following a similar plan to fully study the issues. The special committee will follow these and other studies to fully inform the Common Council and the public of viable solutions.

A resolution is non-binding but can facilitate discussion. It is more important to take a more global, studied, view of the problems if any meaningful solutions are to be found.

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