

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-303

AN ORDINANCE SUPPORTING THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY REPARATION COMMISSION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

WHEREAS, cited by the Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation indicate that African American people in the US own 10% of the median wealth of white people, have lower life expectancies and higher unemployment, are 20% more likely to report psychological distress and 50% less likely to receive counseling or mental health treatment, will earn \$1 million per person less than individual white people during their lifetimes, are 40% less likely to own a home, and are five times more likely to be imprisoned; and

WHEREAS, slavery and the subsequent caste system has created the foundation of the US financial portfolio, on which all other wealth was built. Everyone in the US is currently benefiting from the effects of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the effects of slavery can be see in many factors in Champaign County in many forms including but not limited to, discriminatory housing practices, forced school integration, unequal school funding, disparate levels of generational wealth, higher infant and maternal mortality rates, and higher rates of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of the County of Champaign, Illinois, is vested in and concerned with the wellbeing and development of all residents and wishes to address the historical and systemic inequalities imposed on African Americans in Champaign County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the County Board of the County of Champaign, Illinois, the County Board of Champaign County will support and participate in the efforts of the Champaign-Urbana Reparation Coalition by nominating one member to serve on the Commission, contributing \$25,000 to the work of the Commission, and participate in the effort to address the lasting and significant harm that slavery and racism have caused African American residents of Champaign County.

PRESENTED, ADOPTED, APPROVED and RECORDED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, A.D. 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Locke, Chair  
Champaign County Board

Recorded  
& Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Ammons, County Clerk  
and ex-officio Clerk of the  
Champaign County Board  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Summers, County Executive  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_