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Boston City Council votes to study reparations for Black Bostonians



The Boston City Council convenes, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022, in the Council Chamber, at Boston City Hall, in Boston. The Boston City Council voted Wednesday to form a task force to study how it can provide reparations and other forms of atonement to Black Bostonians for the city's role in slavery and its legacy of inequality. *AP Photo/Steven Senne*

By MICHAEL CASEY, Associated Press

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BOSTON (AP) — The Boston City Council voted Wednesday to form a task force to study how it can provide reparations for and other forms of atonement to Black Bostonians for the city's role in slavery and its legacy of inequality.

The unanimous vote means Boston now joins a conversation about reparations that is happening across the country from Providence, Rhode Island to California.

Boston will be closely watched given its troubled racial history, including its role in supporting and financing slavery even after Massachusetts abolished the practice in 1783. Supporters of reparations cited its history of segregated housing as well as a political economy after Emancipation that reduced opportunities for Black Bostonians. The result of that, they said, is a wide wealth gap between white and Black families that remains today.