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Office of the Nassau County Comptroller

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Nassau County Comptroller's Office Hosts Panel of Black Woman Elected Officials in Recognition of Black History Month

The Office of the Nassau County Comptroller released a report on Black Economic Equity this week that highlighted the challenges facing members of the Black communities when it comes to issues including income, housing, and credit.

The report was released on February 13 during the Comptroller's Office annual Black History Month event, which this year featured a panel discussion led by New York State Assemblywoman Taylor Raynor, Nassau County Legislator Siela Bynoe, Town of North Hempstead Councilwoman Viviana Russell, and Urban League Long Island CEO Dr. Theresa Sanders.

"By putting together this report and gathering this great group of leaders together in one room, we can play a positive role in making real progress for Black communities in Nassau County," Schnirman said. "Our report shows the challenges are clear and the impacts are widespread. Nassau County's economy is weakened when entire communities experience economic inequity."

As of 2016, Nassau County is home to 155,583 Black residents that compose 11 percent of the population. The report shows that the median household net worth of a white family is ten times the net worth of a Black family.

"The work that we do has to be birthed out of hearing from our community, and then you have to go into the community and get resident experts to talk about how to move these initiatives forward," Legislator Bynoe said.

"When there is an equity gap in the black community it leads to disparities that impact every community throughout Nassau County," Councilwoman Russell said. "Our passion to advocate for those who feel as though they don't have a voice is evidenced in the work that we do on behalf of everyone in every community regardless of ethnicity."

The racial economic gap is a threat to Nassau County's long-term financial success, as demographic trends project show that Nassau County is becoming increasingly diverse.

"Education is that very important foundation to teach our children not just what they need to know as far as academics, but social and fiscal responsibility," Assemblywoman Raynor said.

The report released by the Comptroller's Office tracked several key metrics to highlight key variables that fuel the racial economic gap:

- Population
- Growth
- Entrepreneurship
- Educational Attainment
- Unemployment
- Income and Wages
- Homeownership
- Access to Credit

The full report can be found online [here](#).

“Our policymakers have a real responsibility to protect those that are most vulnerable—that’s why they’re in office,” Dr. Sanders said. “So when I look at this data and the information that is being given out, this is good government in action.”

By providing policymakers, community leaders, and the public with specific data about these inequities, the Comptroller's Office is beginning to define the scope of the problem and bring together stakeholders to identify innovative solutions.