



**Reparations Task Force Meeting
Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 6 p.m.**

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/4S3b7OSmJJFXy3YjYpePe21hg2MvBoJsXUnQQAn1IEg4AB42SvD6d2Wdj82-IKXm.qRui1ooEZUXb1hGS>

POST AGENDA MINUTES – RATIFIED

This document has been ratified or approved by the Fulton County Reparations Task Force and is not binding on the County or any officer.

****A QUORUM WAS PRESENT****

Members Present: Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, Rodney Littles, Mike Russell, Amanda Meng

Staff Present: Jasmine Campbell and Denvall Stewart

Adoption of September 21, 2023, Meeting Agenda-

Motion by Vice Chair Marcus Coleman to adopt the meeting agenda. Motion is seconded by Rodney Littles. Motion passes.

Approval of September 7, 2023, Minutes -

Motion by Rodney Littles to adopt the meeting agenda. Motion is seconded by Vice Chair Coleman. Motion passes.

Public Comments (see end of minutes) opened at 6:09 PM

Old Business

- **Status Report: Finalizing Contract with AUCC**
 - Chair asks Attorney Denvall for the status of the AUCC contract
 - Ms. Calhoun is serving as the liaison between the county and the AUCC representatives.
 - We are trying to set up a meeting with AUCC to finalize the contract but we've had to reschedule due to the the flooding. We will not be able to have the meeting until the first week in October

- The chair will attend the meeting as well
- Research Design/ Framework
 - The research committee met with the Economist, Dr. Danny Boston
 - A PDF version of the research design meeting notes will be shared with via the website
 - Review of the meeting with Dr. Boston
 - We brought Dr. Boston up to speed on how the Task Force got to where it is now
 - And one of the things that we would like from him is some direction on looking at this from an economic lens, including what data and frameworks we should use
 - Dr. Boston has previous work exploring county and affirmative action and talked about his work along with other scholars investigating racial injustice in Fulton County and Georgia. He explains that this existing work and studies that taken together and analyzed would help with the case of reparations
 - Robust Black business sector around turn of 19th century - looked at history of discrimination in Fulton County - document in labor and in business, politics, housing, health how discrimination and acts of discrimination had occurred and disadvantage placed on AA community - resulted in proposals
 - Robust history of discrimination and exclusion - “The way it was in the south” - Donald Lee Grant- looks at Georgia that documents discrimination and acts of horror (lynching, race terror, discriminatory acts)
 - Alton Hornsby - Morehouse scholar - collaborated on case for fulton county and city of atlanta - manuscript on Fulton County and racial discrimination and exclusion
 - Discussion of what sectors the Task Force plans to look at:
 - Voting
 - Housing/ Imminent Domain
 - Buckhead - still see small AA AME churches and you know communities once surrounded these institutions
 - Business
 - Convict Labor
 - Georgia was the model for convict labor
 - Mass incarceration
 - Dr. Boston explains that building the case may be the easiest part - organize/ categorize into the sectors (above)
 - How do you assign a value or a cost to the discrimination and injustices?

- Current terms cumulative effect by looking at wealth gap
- Cost - present value of exclusion in economic commerce
- Challenge is finding one approach that applies across
- Compensation scheme is challenging - nuanced and well-thought out
- Need to build legal muster - social/political momentum
 - Conformity to case law; remedies that hold up under strict scrutiny
- Other economist to reach out to: Romie Tribble - Spelman
- Dr. Simanga asked about a residual impact gauge - Generational impact of land dispossession, incarceration impact on families
 - Ability to accumulate wealth effects future generations
 - Difficult to follow every line but for some examples you would want to document this generational effect (Darity has done this - easy way of doing this is using wealth disparity)
 - Document most impactful research on intergenerational wealth disparity
 - A lot of studies exist on this
- Dr. Sims-Alvarado asks if a form of reparation payment/ remedy based on a formula of economic loss, opportunity loss - is possible to calculate?
 - Dr. Boston response: Yes, identify cases that have broad social impact that can be measured and are directly tied to policies that were implemented by FC or FC failed to implement that led to some type of racial injustice or discrimination.
 - Build a compelling governmental interested in engaging in reparations
 - What would be the best cases? That occurred in the county and the county carried forward practices of slavery once formerly institutionalized
 - 5 or 6 cases across different areas to analyze and follow the cost of inequality as a result of acts/failures to act and look at present value
 - Not looking at everything that happened - impossible
 - Build substantial case that identifies a remedy with the ***greatest impact*** that will address the inequality - TF should make the argument that the remedy proposed is the most effective way to address the inequality
 - Chair discusses “low-hanging fruit” research - with the example of voting data decreasing significantly during certain periods of disenfranchisement.

- Talking about disenfranchisement. We can look at from 1860, 1866, When African-american men in Fulton County were first given the opportunity to vote. And you're gonna see a large number of black men and white men actually being registered to vote. But when you begin to look at African-Americans specifically. These numbers are almost even during that time period. What you would begin to see over time is that these numbers are going to decrease over the years. And then when you have women. The state of Georgia did not grant women the right to vote in Georgia really until 1970.
- When you start talking about poll taxes, racial violence, and voter intimidation you're going to see people being disenfranchised, you're gonna see these numbers decrease significantly over a period of time, and then they will begin to increase in Fulton County. But the question becomes. How do you calculate the value for freedoms lost?
 - Dr. Meng explains that Dr. Boston does believe that it is possible to calculate a cost for injustices and harm done. Dr. Boston acknowledged that we can't document every case so instead he recommends developing well documented cases to build a compelling argument of harm, injustice that touch on specific areas like disenfranchisement, eminent domain, economic exclusion, unequal access to country services. And from there identify the cost of injustice.
 - Chair encourages everyone to read The Black Reparations Project by Dr. William Darity
 - Chair recommends amending the organizational chart for the research personnel based on the conversation with Dr. Boston
 - Chair mentions connecting with Mike Carnathan and Mike Alexander of the Atlanta Regional Commission to help with data particularly for eminent domain

Close of Meeting

- Vice Chair asks Mr. Littles to share his work with Georgia State Representative Bruce. Mr. Littles shares that he helped Representative Bruce during the 2021-2022 session to introduce a bill that would institutionalize the effort to increase purchasing from African American, Hispanic, Asian, and other minority and women-owned business by the state.
- Ms. Campbell shares that we do have a new member and our quorum will increase from 5 to 6.
- Vice Chair announces that a national reparations conference is being held at Georgia State University on October 6-7
- Mr. Russell makes an announcement about a community event
 - Vice Chair questions whether or not task force members should make general public announcements that are unrelated to reparations.
 - Attorney Denvall advises that there could be a motion on whether or not we allow members to speak on general things happening in the community

Adjourn at 7:17 PM

Public Comment:

00:21:18 Amia H.: it was closed

00:21:29 Amia H.: plz allow me time to type

00:22:07 TERESA: the chat was disabled, we could not type

00:23:11 TERESA: will you all consider hanging the public meetings on Saturday mornings for a better turn out? Traffic is so terrible through the week.

00:23:20 TERESA: thank you

00:23:30 Amia H.: What are your thoughts on HB89 the equity and fairness commission act that is about Reparations on a federal level, could you come together on a local and federal push would bring more media attention.

00:23:45 Amia H.: unitedcitizens02@gmail.com

00:24:03 Amanda Meng: In-person meeting address: Fulton County Government Center Assembly Hall, 141 Pryor St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

00:24:05 Roxanne Roxanne: sgaroxanne@gmail.com

00:29:17 Rod Littles1: YES

00:32:18 Amanda Meng:
<https://fultoncountyga.gov/-/media/Reparations-Task-Force/Reparations-Task-Force-Annual-Report/OFFICIAL-FULTON-COUNTY-REPARATIONS-TASK-FORCE-REPORT-April-2021--Jan-2023-edited.ashx>