



Reparations Taskforce Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2023 - 6 pm

Zoom Link:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/S4_zqayPDIgP6cpfwj2TUJzq_el6F2nyrB4eo5AGWBfDLIGRo7wggvS7Q1PpwLdJ.cMBHIBShsIfcOyUs

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, Elon Osby, Michael Simanga, Mike Russell, Donte’ Thompson, Amanda Meng

Staff Present: Jasmine Campbell, Jessica Corbittt, Derval Stewart

Meeting Opening:

- New Taskforce member, Donte’ Thompson welcomed
- Dr. Bernice King’s absence is excused
- Quorum is established and roll call is taken.
- Adoption of the agenda of July 20th meeting agenda at approximately 7:13 PM. Motioned by Mr. Littles. Seconded by Donte’ Thompson. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- AUCC contract was approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in their July 12th meeting
 - Attorney Stewart explains that the motion passed with the stipulation that further clarification on what deliverables the AUCC is responsible for and who is responsible for those deliverables
 - Chair explains that the AUCC’s responsibility is to by the fiscal agent and contract researchers to carry out the work of the empirical study. The Taskforce will outline the research activities and deliverables for the individuals who are contracted to do the work.

- The bylaw draft states that all media requests be directed to the Chair and Vice Chair when necessary and would allow the Chair and Vice Chair to appoint taskforce members to serve as a media spokesperson
 - Attorney Stewart explains there is a need to balance the smooth and orderly operation of media relations with taskforce members' 1st Amendment rights. Nothing can stop the media from approaching any member to talk about their participation in the taskforce. However, that person may be directed to say that they are not the official spokesperson for the taskforce and what they are saying is not official
 - Several task members explain their approach to responding or not responding to media inquiry
 - Vice Chair Coleman suggests providing boiler plate language for that person to say, I am speaking in my capacity as an individual member and not on behalf of the taskforce as a whole or on behalf of Fulton County government.
 - Ms. Campbell remarks that some media or general public inquiry could be answered with an FAQ that has been discussed previously
 - Mr. Thompson asks if the Chair and Vice Chair will consult the taskforce as a whole as to who is appointed to speak to media.
 - Vice Chair Coleman explains that the Chair and Vice Chair will be the primary ones to make the decision and that this is common across organizations.
 - Mr. Russell takes time to explain his position on why he is on the taskforce in light of a recent media story he was interviewed in.
 - Mr. Littles and Chair Dr. Sims-Alvarado explain that they are in the practice of not responding to media because the research has not been done yet and they are focused on the research process
 - General agreement that language will be added to the bylaw the states members can speak as individual member but should make clear that they are not representing the taskforce or Fulton County in an official capacity.
- Review Organizational Structure Chart
 - This topic is tabled for the next meeting

New Business:

- All of the new business topic mentioned below are tabled for a future meeting
 - Research Design Committee/Duties
 - Creating structure and topics, and timeline for study
 - Identify the type of researchers needed for study.
 - Writing job descriptions and posting of positions
 - Oversight by Taskforce
- Mr. Thompson shares his background, political affiliations, and interest in serving the taskforce

Meeting Ending:

- Ms. Campbell reminds that task force that the need to follow the deadlines and timelines for providing information to the county

Public Comments

- Two comments from the chat related to the discussion of Mr. Russel's interview are read by Mr. Littles. No response is needed.

Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.