



**Reparations Task Force Meeting
Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 6 p.m.**

Location: Fulton County Government Center Assembly Hall, 141 Pryor St SW, Atlanta, GA
30303

Zoom:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/zRA9K3igMGbxISBu2qOfmVMcvqN-fcM3XJpooaqIxdgi_eBvdKsnOmg0zHdhZkyD.5saAjYWvi_FO_TZf

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: Carol Sykes, Donte' Thompson, Elon Osby, Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, Rodney Littles, Mike Russell (online), Michael Simanga (online)

Staff Present: Jasmine Campbell and Fran Calhoun

Adoption of October 5, 2023, Meeting Agenda

Motion by Rodney Littles to adopt the meeting agenda. Motion is seconded by Donte' Thompson by Rodney Littles. Motion passes.

Approval of September 21, 2023, Minutes

Rodney Littles is recognized to make an amendment to the minutes to correct the name to State Representative Bruce. Motion to approve with the amendment stated by Rodney Littles by Marcus Coleman. Motion is seconded by Carol Sykes.

Public Comments (at end of document)

Old Business

- Status Report: Finalizing Contract with AUCC

- Chair Sims-Alvarado reports that the contract is not finalized yet but we are getting closer
- Research Design/ Framework
 - Review of updated organizational chart for the research design (attached at the end of this document minutes)
 - Chair Sims-Alvarado reviews each position within the org chart and their role and responsibilities
 - Mrs. Osby asks about the difference between the research committee and the researchers
 - Chair Sims-Alvarado explains the research committee helps shape the research questions and scope with limited time and resources so that we can have tangible results.
 - Discussion by Vice Chair Coleman recognizes that local reparations do not take the place of the federal government but acknowledges the current context and dysfunction of the federal government and the reality of the federal government not taking up reparations soon. The Vice Chair notes the importance of local reparations, specifically as it relates to land.
 - Chair Sims-Alvarado presents information and research regarding Macedonia/ Bagley Park and reads out names for the record of who lived off Pharr Road in Bagley Park and asks if any are familiar to Mrs. Osby. LM Hope, Sarah Vector, Mount Olive Episcopal Church, Walter Hendrix, William Arnaud, John Owens, James Patterson, George, Ron McMillan, BM Lingham, Mrs. TK Shackelford, RD Burns, Thomas W. Thompson, JR Smith Jr. JD Shambly, JBW Ellis, CC Mitchell, Thomas Thompson, John Owens, Ernest Kellog, John and Annie Usher, John J. Owens, Hollis F. Hope, Edward M. Chapman. Doc Dobbs, Leonard. Drains, James Chives.
 - Mrs. Osby elaborates: The settlement began as Macedonia Park. My grandfather, William Bagley, purchased, he helped to build it and he purchased land in this community and it was actually called a subdivision and as black families moved in, it became a larger community over time. My grandfather became known as the mayor of Bagley Park. That was because of his leadership in the community and in what other families thought of him it would go to him for guidance and whatever. And so eventually Macedonia Park became known and was called Bagley Park.
 - Ernest Kellog came from Forsyth County along with my grandfather. And just to give you a little bit of history of that, these are families were forced out of Forsyth County to leave their property in 1912 during a racial cleansing.
 - Chair Sims-Alvarado presents an articles from the Atlanta Constitution:
 - 1940 Article: A clean up a Bagley Park Negro residential section between Piedmont and Peace Tree rows were ordered yesterday by the County Board of Health. The board resolved to require regulation septic tanks and improve water facilities.
 - 1947 Article: Commission OK is a list of recreation parks. The Fulton County Commission. Wednesday approved and submitted to the Citizens Bond

Committee for further approval, a list of recreation projects estimated to cost \$466,500. the list submitted by chairman RL Doyle. Included a Negro park at Rockdale and another on the west side of Atlanta at a site. Other projects on the list are swimming pools at Rosville, Fairburn, Southend, College Park and Hapeville, and recreational centers at Adamsville, Center Hill, Mount Vernon, Grove Park, Peachtree Hills, Sandy Springs, Bolton. The commission gave the go ahead, signal to the public works department to clear out a Negro slum in Bagley Park and to transform that area into a park. The park will take in some 50 acres. At the request of a group of Residents of the Cheshire Bridge road section. The commission voted down a proposal of the Planning Commission to change the name of Cheshire Bridge Road to Buford Highway. The descendants were headed by Curtis Cheshire, whose great grandfather built Cheshire Bridge. The commission opened bids for construction of a number of health centers but announced they will be taken under advisement.

- January 1948 Article: Urges clearing of Bagley Park. The elimination of Bagley Park. Negro residential area in Buckhead was urged this week at the first meeting in 1948 of the North Fulton Civic Club. Bonnie I Smith, newly installed president of the club described the crowded area as an I soar to the north side. The club passed a resolution to start planning for the improvement of the Bakley Park area. The proposal call for the development of park and playground facilities for the benefit of children in the North Volton area as well as the house and facility for Negro residents in a designated area of the North Side. Officers installed in addition to Smith or Dr. Lewis J Furrier, vice president, Mrs. RM. Clark, treasurer, Mrs. Dale Collins secretary and Mrs. WC. Chapler, corresponding secretary.
- April 1949 Article: Commission Studies Negro Housing Plan. After hearing a plea of representatives of 127 Negro War veterans for assistance in partly solving the acute Negro housing problem. The Fulton County Commissioners has called the conference with leaders of white residence near the intersection of West Lake Avenue and Simpson Street Northwest. The veterans have organized a nonprofit organization known as Urbanville, Incorporated and have obtained financing for 127 low-cost housing units. They said they wish to buy from the county all except a 100 foot strip of 43 acres of county property near West Lake Avenue and Simpson Avenue. The 100 foot strip would become a park and a barrier between the Negroes and the whites residing on one side of the property. Commissioner Glora Hailey explained the county acquired the land from the Grove Park Development Company, which had purchased it to prevent further encroachment of Negroes. And has sold it to the county with the understanding it would not be resold to Negroes. He said the county could not sell the property to Negroes unless an agreement was to be reached with the white residents, but thought a conference might bring results. The Negroes said they wanted to avoid all friction Now and in the future. And that the 127 veterans had been screened by a social agency. Negro housing had decreased owing to the clearing out a right of ways for the expressways and to industrial development at the time when their need for housing was greatest. They pointed out the county had torn down 80 Negro homes

in Bagley Park. And, 150 Negro homes for the North-south Expressway and a railroad had evicted 34 Negro families for a warehouse.

- Chair Sims Alvarado and Mrs. Osby read the Fulton County tax assessor value of 45% of the land for 2023, \$936,400. They continue with a research exercise to calculate the current value of Bagley Park land and parcels \$59,865,900 (2023 appraised value) and what is owed to the households (80) that were forced out results in ~\$737,500. If you consider the full amount of land it would be \$1,143,125.
- Vice Chair Coleman points out that this shows that there are low hanging fruit tangible items that are documented and buried right there only to be dug up. Which is a win win for us
- Chair Sims-Alvarado asks Ms. Osby to imagine what her family would be if they hadn't been forced off their land.
 - Ms. Osby says I have tried to think about this. Before. Even, you know, from the point of view of Forsyth County. But just looking at it from Bagley park. It's hard to do because your mind is still harnessed with what can't be done. You know, or what was stolen from you and what was taken from you or from your ancestors. And so it's really hard, but these numbers that you've brought to us tonight. Kind of opens my eyes a little bit more, you know, it, but it's also at the same time. It's very, very sad.
- Chair Sims-Alvarado extrapolates this process of development highways, Lenox Mall, I20, white flight, Civil Rights Act, loss of the commercial district

Close of Meeting

- Each board member given the opportunity to make closing remarks

Adjourn

In-Person Public Comment

Ray Calhoun:

Alright, I wanna thank you for the task force. This is my first time here. I'm gonna get right into it. Article one, section 2 of the Constitution declares they in person. Who is not free would be counted as 3 fifths of a free individual. That is the 3 fifth clause. And because of that, we're in the situation that we're in now because of racism, white supremacy. And one of the greatest dangers that I see is local reparations is that this reparation is much bigger than any city county, or state government. This is in the trance. We can be serious about taking this to the federal government because they're the ones who can really afford it. With the momentum that we're getting here in Atlanta, I'm so pleased and so happy because California and Evanston and a lot of other states that are doing the very

same. We need y'all as a recommendation. You need to gather nice and take it to the federal government because that's who I will complain is with. It was government sanctioned housing, government sanctioned housing discrimination. It was government sanctioned redlining that got states and cities and counties involved. And without that, I mean, without the federal government, it was just blowing in the wind. One of the last things I want to say is the greatest danger in local reparations like Evanston program can be a diversion from that from the nation and what they are supposed to be for us. And I'm recommending that we should work with certain people like William A. Sandy Darity, who is an economist, we should work with Dr. Claude Anderson, we should work with an attorney by the name of Antonio Moore. And as I take my seat with the last 15 min. I'm on your side. So we need to take some of that money and do some advertising and we can fill this place up like a church.

Kevin Bryant:

Alright, yes, I'm here to, you know, voice my support and advocate. My name is Kevin Bryant. I'm here to voice my support and advocate for the reparations and favor for reparations. I'm a native born Atlanta resident. I've been a resident of Fulton County for over 20 years. I don't think there's any debate on what needs to be done here, you know, the centuries of horror, you know, violence and unpaid labor that our family members went through. And I'm just here to voice my support. You know, I wasn't really expecting to even get the room or space to come up and speak but you know I'm happy to be here and see everybody here in support of that. So. Thank you. You know, I just think it's time for the government to do the right thing. You know, and we all. Yeah, we all know what that is.

Dion Franklin:

Thank you all for the work you are performing. My name is Dion Franklin. I am a descendant of the slave called Sarah Johnson from the 1800s. We have faith in the 2021-25 reparations committee that you all will deliver results. Last week I heard 4 questions. Question one, why should we use today's tax dollars to pay reparations to save the past? We should pay reparation to descendants because without their ancestors clearing the land, without creating products, without producing products, there would be no tax base, no more of a city that you all live and play and work. A new illegal immigration work license could be created for a reparations program or added a new line item under

the Fulton County tax property bill for all non US citizens and descendants. Many of these non US citizens and descendants are using benefits of our ancestor work. Question 2, how much, how do we determine who gets the fund? It must be lineage based to ensure that the right people get the fund. And for example, because United States President Barack Obama is not eligible based on reparations lineage because his father was from Kenya, his mother was a white woman from Kansas. Also, one fair way is we could issue the funds based on the percentage of your grandparent representing 25% for parents of your grandparent been descendent of US slave would get another issue fund. Item 3, why not just give educators college and financial assistance or financial aid to buy business versus cash payment? Wages is what was stolen. So the only fair way to make it right is to pay back the wage, the stolen wages with interest, issuing a check or something to start the income refund check is simpler than creating a massive government program which can fall to waste and abuse. Question 4, what if a person make a poor choice with the funds? Many poor people make bad choices because of desperation to obtain essential goods and services. If a person makes a bad choice then they will likely end up in a new proposed 1 billion dollar jail. Also, it is no different than when the person get a fair income check. If reparations approved, the check could be issued out during the federal tax season.

Ray Jones:

My name is Ray Jones and I am a resident of the city of Atlanta. And a native of Fulton County born and raised, reared and grazed here in the city of Atlanta in Fulton County. So this is greatly appreciated. Now, of course, we know who reparations is owed to. And we have to be specific about that. And it can't be based on race. It has to be based on lineage. The lineage has to descend from Americans that descend from chattel slavery. Now also, when we talk about specificity. As far as Fulton County is concerned and culpability and the part that Fulton County played, I know you're all gonna be dealing with. Not only slavery, but the systemic outcomes, systemic racism from A to B. So we have to talk about, and I know y'all are gonna talk about redlining, but we had to discuss all the foreclosures that have taken place. 2008, when that bubble burst and you can look inside the Atlanta Daily World inside the newspaper and see the thousands of homes that were foreclosed. And they didn't even foreclose inside the courthouse. Folks were selling homes outside the Fulton County Courthouse. So I have to say that Fulton County is culpable in all of the people who lost their homes in that time period and

we know that our wealth is tied up in our homes, in home ownership. So please, I hope that y'all deal with that. And once again, I thank y'all and I appreciate everything that you are doing.

Marcus James:

I'm Marcus James of ADOS, I represent the American Descendant of Slavery, and advocacy foundation. I'm born and raised here in Atlanta, Georgia. I'm what you would call a Grady baby. I'm born right there at Grady Memorial Hospital, high school, Atlanta Public High School here. And things like that. I'm also a local realtor in the area well as a associate broker in the area. So as it pertains to some of the things that my comrade just spoke about in terms of housing as it pertains to our community. I see driving down here, the homelessness that's taking place in our, in our great city. As opposed to other areas. I'm looking at it in terms of how it has affected us. Locally in terms of those that fought in world wars, civil wars, my ancestors, I do this in terms of represent and to pay homage to my ancestors, specifically my father, my grandfather, all those that fought in the Vietnam War. Things like that, what we all contributed and it's a shame to see our veterans the way that they are only in our demographic is that the case and when I look out into the crowd I see primarily who's sitting out there of a specific demographic, not to say that it didn't touch other genders or whatnot, but it really did affect us more so when I look at the immigration at this point in time, how it is directly proportionate to our mass incarceration here. We've been gravely affected. So yes, I'm 100% in support of reparations for American descendants of slavery, specifically as it pertains to in order of our lineage, lineage based. That's about it. That's all I have to say.

Keith Riddle:

Just wanna say thank you to speak to you all today. I've been staying in Atlanta now for 20 years, 20 years, and I just want to say to you they gave the Native American man reservations and then they let us pay rent and generationally that's what we've been doing paying rent and then we're letting them own the land and we're landlord and tenants instead of lord and peasants. So it's like peasants for 6 generations now. And even me to this day, even though I have successful businesses, I still struggle. They didn't let me have the loan. They said no on the house. Then when I came to the Georgia schools, it was all segregated. There was no white people here. It's always been that way. And

so now I'm still suffering. There's no community. Where do you find money? Who do you go for support? It's broken. All of those, you know, border boys, there's no other race doing that. Who's taking care of them? You know, and then look what's happening. They took the land, they use all of that, there's taxes over there for 85, you can see all their lands been taken. I've used to walk through the communities and like they got reverse mortgages. We don't know any better. There's no education and then you know 6 generations in no lessons, and it is only 1% to get to be like you. So most of us are sitting here struggling. It's really sad. It's hard. And if I didn't get out here on my tail and work, I would even know. And I still have to do more to be better. I have to have better credit, better everything to the point where sometimes I even went to the bank with the white person and they got approved and I didn't see them with a better credit score. So it's still happening today and it went nowhere. They need to give us our money and they need to give us some land and just like they did the Indian man and we good and I would love to be on that land where we don't have to bother with them, we can try to figure out who we are. They burnt it down. I mean, it's really bad what they've done to us and it's not even a question of when it's when the monies gonna get here.

Online Public Comment:

MF Kush. Lineage base reparations protection from CPS. Anti-American hate crime bill. And to stop Immigration resources dedicated to black American kids. And their families. Cash gains, urban reparations bill, 16. Or 6 19 set a precedent of a lifetime of lifetime payments being tax free. Or reparations being paid.

Kash Gaines: -Oregon reparations bill 619 set a precedent of lifetime payments being tax free or "Reparations paid to an individual, annuities, and/or cash payments are exempt from garnishment and all state, county and municipal taxation, are not subject to execution, garnishment, attachment, or any other process or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law and are unassignable."

-San Fran has also demanded 250 years of payments tied to the AMI or area median income meaning as incomes go up then so does this payment. AMI in Fulton county is 78k. Divided into monthly payments would be 6500 per black American who is a descendant of slavery in the USA.

-DC will not only create a task force soon but also research private industry:

Require the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking to establish a slavery era database of records relating to slaveholding which will subsequently be made available to the Reparations Task Force to aid in its study of reparations proposals.

Hadu Jones: Reparations Need to be lineage based For Black Americans.

Kash Gaines: HOW TO PAY: % of Sales tax, % of DMV fees, Remittance Tax, Cut social programs.

Nette: Peace Power and Lineage based Reparations!

BT: Wats the address I had no idea this was happening I would've come in person

Fran Calhoun: Fulton County Government is located at 141 Pryor Street, SW 30303. The Reparations Task Force meets in person every first Monday of the month at 6 pm.