



**Reparations Task Force Meeting  
Thursday, November 2, 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/HpxMQKDsYNDI1\\_HV\\_aL6XNA43bJ3eMRId3H14igBUEJu5EilNr6FIBV85ZNcjm1.oaVQRyilGbVhzRI6?startTime=1698962206000](https://zoom.us/rec/share/HpxMQKDsYNDI1_HV_aL6XNA43bJ3eMRId3H14igBUEJu5EilNr6FIBV85ZNcjm1.oaVQRyilGbVhzRI6?startTime=1698962206000)

## **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:** Donte' Thompson, Rodney Littles, Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, Amanda Meng, Mike Russell, Greg Fann, Carole Sykes (virtually), Michael Simanga (virtually)

**Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun, Jasmine Campbell, Denvall Stewart (virtually)

### **Adoption of November 2, 2023, Meeting Agenda**

Motion by Donte' Thompson to adopt the meeting agenda. Motion is seconded by Mike Russell. Motion passes.

### **Approval of October 5, 2023, Minutes**

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

### **Public Comments**

During public comment a motion was made by Vice Chair Marcus Coleman to extend public comment. Motion is seconded by Bishop Greg Fann. Motion passes. Public comments can be found at the end of the document.

## Old Business

- Status Report: Finalizing Contract with AUCC
  - Attorney Denvall gives an update on the contract with the AUCC - revisions were made and the revised version was sent to AUCC. Attorney Denvall is hoping the changes we made will be acceptable to the AUCC.

## New Business

- Research Recruitment and Hiring Process
  - Chair Sims-Alvarado reviews the planned next steps for the research recruitment and hiring process:
    - Task Force will post the job descriptions along with deliverables once the AUCC contract is signed
    - Chair Sims-Alvarado asks Fulton County where the best place to post the positions the... the Reparations Task Force website? And would like to know if we can have an email address.
      - Ms. Calhoun says we will have to talk to Fulton County procurement and legal and that Fulton County has a procurement process they have to follow if we don't have the AUCC contract
- Commencement of Research
  - Chair Sims Alvarado explains the goal is to commence the research 30 days after the contract is signed. If we do not get enough qualified applicants then we could extend the timeframe
  - Dr. Meng asks if we can begin to locate primary source documents within the Fulton County archives
  - Vice Chair Coleman - the AUCC contract is the "meat and the potatoes" of the research.
  - Chair Sims-Alvarado reminds the room that we have started the research. It started 2 years ago. The Task Force will continue to do so while we wait on the contract.
  - Carole Sykes comments that we need to be mindful that we are under Fulton County, be mindful of Fulton County processes, and that it is important to follow these processes which can take time but there are processes and we should be aware of that.
  - Chair Sims-Alvarado emphasizes that we don't have time. The county commissioners approved the research dollars for this fiscal year's budget. There are many of us who have put forth a lot of effort to move this forward and we don't want this to slow down.
  - Vice Chair Coleman takes a moment to address earlier comments about local versus federal reparations
    - He explains:
      - this task force is not contrary to US federal reparations
      - many of us do work on this and while we push the federal , we can still do local and regional efforts
      - working on the federal reparations push while we work locally

- Rodney Littles - we exist under the authorization of the Fulton County , so we may have other things we work on individually but we are focused on Fulton County. Our charter is tied to the direction we are following under the leadership of our chair
- Research presentation from Dr. Brian An on Racial Inequality in Homeownership in Atlanta and Racial Inequality and the Local Provision of Public Goods in the United States. Presentation slides are available here:  
<https://fultoncountyga.gov/-/media/Commissioners/Boards-and-Authorities/Reparations-Task-Force/Fulton-Reparations-Task-Force-Presentation-Nov-2--An-and-Emdad-GT-Center-for-Urban-Research.ashx>

## **Close of Meeting**

Mr. Mike Russell speaks to his advocacy for affordable housing and his belief in the importance of civic participation in local government and to understand where your city rep and your county rep stands when it comes to property taxes.

## **Adjourn**

## **Public Comment**

Jumoke Ifetayo

We're so excited to see the times that we're in right now. So often talking to people about reparations back then and today, young people were asked if they see reparations in their lifetime and they said no. We got to bring them up to speed because it's already happening. We spent a lot of time as an organization of dedicated activists and community activists to bring us to the point that we are at. We've seen reparations pick up in a big way. At one point reparations was seen as something that was very extreme, radical, not possible and we see that we're moving and making progress. So I just wanted to close by saying that the N'Cobra Atlanta chapter stands in support in this process of the Fulton County Reparations Task Force. I was thinking in terms of research I don't know if y'all could have something like an advisory committee, maybe we could provide some support in that way and also as we've offered before we definitely would like to support you when you get to the point of doing community engagement town hall meetings or report back to the community and helping to organize those type of events as well with our expertise that we bring to the table in terms of that. So I just close with that and say we thank you for your work we thank you for your sacrifice and giving time to this movement and helping to advance reparations in Fulton County.

Reparations now, reparations now, reparations now, thank you.

Ray Jones

I'm so honored to be here in front of this beautiful body, and my name is Ray Jones. I'm with the ADOS advocacy foundation. ADOS stands for American descendants of slavery, and I'm so appreciative that you all are doing what you're doing, and I look forward to the data that is going to come forth tonight when it comes to home ownership, because when I think of, and I'm a resident I was born in Atlanta, Georgia when I, when I think of all the people that lost their homes over the past 20-30 years, and how people lost their homes on Fulton County courthouse steps. So the Fulton County definitely played a part and had a hand in all the home ownership that was lost. And I think of Black Atlanta, and we, we have a 20 year problem in the sense of most of our wealth is tied up with our boomer class and our wealth and everyone's wealth is mostly tied up in home ownership. So, in the next 20 years we're going to loose a lot of our boomers, and that's going to take a lot away from our wealth class. So I appreciate the work that you all are doing and I look forward to the information that is going to come forth tonight. Thank you all.

Jahadu Rahman II

Yes, I just wanted to say thank you. I appreciate y'all for everything you all are doing. I'm going to have something that I wrote. May I start please? Reparations are for a specific group, a specific lineage. Black Americans who descend from United States chattel slavery specifically. We are our own ethnic group and need to be compensated as such. This will ensure the proper people are compensated for the harms that were done to their ancestors in Fulton County and across the United States of America. Lineage based reparations that include cash payments. If it doesn't include cash payments, then it is in reparations. Our ancestors went through United States chattel slavery, Jim Crow, the Devil's Punch Bowl, redlining, convict leasing, and many more horrific atrocities. They never received restorative justice for it. It has been time for this to be fixed through their descendants. How much more time are we going to have to wait, United States of America? The time is now. This is a debt that is owed. And we are the Black American debt collectors coming to collect our birthright that has been stolen from us for many generations. America can't begin to call itself a

democracy until this debt is finally paid. If America has money for illegal immigration, wars, and other unscrupulous things, then it most certainly has the capital to compensate the people who built it through their descendants. We are the reason the American dream exists. We are the culture. We don't want this reparations task force to turn into a debacle, like what happened with the handling of the reparations task force in Everston, Illinois. As I stand here, I stand on the shoulder of my ancestors, many who lost their lives in the cotton fields of the United States chattel slavery, many who didn't get their GI bills for fighting World War II, many who lost the opportunity for home ownership through the history of redlining. Many Black Americans who still feeling the detrimental effects of this hidden history that is being brought to light. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., I say, where do we go from here? Community or chaos? Our communities are still in chaos, and we are coming to get our check.

Ray Calhoun

My name is Ray Calhoun. I'm here to push back on the Fulton County Reparation Task Force because it's bigger than Fulton County. It's bigger than Everston City. It's bigger than California, the state. Like the brother said, this is the United States Reparation Plan. My great grandmother was murdered down in Coweta County. Her blood cried all the way out to Boston, Massachusetts. Those lawyers came down here to seek justice for my aunt. It's almost a travesty. Y'all are doing good work, but you're dangerous. You're splintering the reparation claim against this United States of America. Unfortunately, I wish and I'm hoping I'm coming here every week to say extended more than Fulton County. Y'all talking about Fulton County is the state of Georgia. Y'all need to be working with Williamson, North Carolina, Rosewood, Florida. You need to be working with Tulsa, Oklahoma. We need to come together as a fist and punch this nation in the reparation mount.

They lynched us together.

They had housing discrimination together.

They had redlining together.

They had the banks together.

They had the banks together.

But now we got Fulton County. Y'all like wagging the dog. Y'all baking a slice instead of baking the cake and then we can cut the slices out of the cake. I'm here to push back on y'all. I'm done and I'll be back.

Okeithia K Banks

My name is Miss Banks and I represent the Black Americans of America. I'm here on behalf of myself and a group of other people, of course, and we're here to basically tell you what we want. We don't want to be given anything because we all know that symbolism is a thing and we really need what we need. We are the voices. And I think we are important. We have 6 points. Definitely. We want this to be a lineage base reparations. We do know that we have all melanated people here in the US and we know that those atrocities only go to those who suffer those claims here. We want to delineate which also goes into that delineate from you know all other ethnicities and and claim our own as our own. We also want to stop illegal immigration. It has put us in the back of the line for far too long and we need to come first. Also we need to answer. Black hate crime bill. We see everyone else. Whose numbers aren't as great as ours as being discriminated against and killed in large numbers. Also, we want protection for our children just as the Native Americans have for their children. We want to make sure that our children go into homes that caters to their culture. And that also brings me to gatekeeping, our culture. We are a unique ethnicity here in America and we want to make sure that we get represented and keep our representation and things of that nature. So this is my first time public speaking so I'm a little nervous. Hope some of that got you know over to you all but, we definitely need this reparations like today.

Online public comment:

Jackson Harlem: we support Ms. Banks message