

Fulton County Reparations Task Force
Thursday, October 7, 2021
6 pm (Zoom)

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.

Call to Order/ Taskforce Purpose Overview Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington, Jr.
District Five

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.
- After a city in Illinois provided reparations to Black citizens that could prove they were from that location, the idea for this taskforce and associated research was encouraged.
- Purpose of this taskforce is to make recommendations on what Fulton County Government can or cannot do in regard to providing reparations to citizens for slavery, taking of land, and other related African-American history issues.
- The Board of Commissioners is relying on this taskforce to become issue experts. Recommendations should be based on research and use examples available across the Country. For example, recently in California a beach taken from a Black family 50 years ago is being returned and it is now worth over \$70 million. The University of Virginia is also conducting research currently on how to make up for slavery at the University.
- District Five is willing to help in any way possible, please reach out to him or staff for assistance.

Introductions Taskforce Members & Staff

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

- **Members Present:** Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, JaNay Wilborn
- **Members Absent:** Khalid Kamau
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs), Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs), Tonya Grier (Clerk to the Commission), Cheryl Ringer (County Attorney’s Office)

Taskforce Organizational Structure Tasks Fran Calhoun
Intergovernmental Affairs Division Manager

Tonya Grier, Clerk to the Commissioner

- Requested the Reparations Taskforce send copies of meeting minutes to Tonya.Grier@fultoncountyga.gov once Officers are elected.

Cheryl Ringer, Senior Attorney

- Email: Cheryl.Ringer@fultoncountyga.gov

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- County Attorney staff member who will provide any assistance with creating bylaws or other legal assistance to the Reparations Taskforce.

Jasmine Campbell, Legislative Assistant

- No response received via email or phone from remaining taskforce member Khalid Kamau.
 - Janay Wilborn: He might not be available until after November 2021 due to his participation in the upcoming City of South Fulton Mayoral race.

Fran Calhoun, Intergovernmental & Interagency Affairs Division Manager

- The Board of Commissioners Elections Taskforce Bylaws can be provided as a template. Fulton County staff will review Bylaws once Reparations Taskforce creates their version of the document.
- As part of this organizational meeting, members are encouraged to consider electing officials as research and meetings begin.
- This taskforce is authorize for active status until December 2025 so group must decide various procedures including what will be considered reasonable member attendance.
 - Commissioner Arrington: Stated he is open to this taskforce expiring earlier than December 2025 if recommendations are established. Believes the structure of this taskforce can be flexible and lenient.
- The Fulton County legal team is reviewing Georgia Open Meetings Law requirements to determine if taskforce meetings need to be made available to the public, including notice.
 - Janay Wilborn: Suggested the Reparations Taskforce record Zoom meetings to avoid any future legal problems.
 - Cheryl Ringer: The Elections Taskforce has different concerns regarding this potential requirement. However, any legal response will be provided to this taskforce as well.
- There are currently only four appointments made to this taskforce. Three Commissioners have stated they will not be making an appointment but this could change at a later date.

Election of Officers – Discussion and Vote

- The County Attorney’s Office might be able to provide minutes for future meetings. A staff member will be assigned at a later date to provide legal assistance.

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Elected Chair

- Currently working on a reparations related project that includes her family’s slavery history dating back to the 1600s.
- Also working on convict labor labels for products that will state they were made by convicts.
- Has names of Fulton County residents she can provide to the group.

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Marcus Coleman: Elected Vice-Chair

- Signed up for taskforce to be a change agent in the community and is ready to get started.

Janay Wilborn: Elected Secretary

- Will use recorded Zoom meetings to transcribe meetings minutes.

Establish Meeting Schedule – Discussion and Vote

- Next meeting date scheduled by unanimous vote for **Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6 pm.**
 - Fulton County staff will provide Zoom meeting link and any other details in the coming weeks.
 - Subcommittee meetings might occur sooner.

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- Let's determine meeting schedule and frequency of future meetings. Personally, Tuesdays and Thursdays are always open.
- Would like to create Bylaws soon to establish a quorum requirement.

Marcus Coleman, Vice-Chair

- LA County, California, Colleges, and several other models are currently available to begin historical reparations victories nationwide. Fulton County can be a leader in this effort and members should meet again soon.

Janay Wilborn, Secretary

- Able to meet monthly or bi-monthly in the future. Suggested the meetings be held every first Thursday of the month starting at 6 pm- 6:30 pm.
- Cannot accept a stipend from Fulton County for service and would like the record to reflect this announcement.
 - Fran Calhoun informed members there is no stipend for this taskforce.

Next Steps

Marcus Coleman, Vice-Chair

- Ready to get to work and willing to work on subcommittee.
- Taskforce recommendations will cause the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to make tough decisions based on research and will have a major impact on residents.

Dr. Sims-Alvarado, Chair

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- Requested Fran Calhoun provide links to a media story about the establishment of the Reparations Taskforce as well as the Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes from Wednesday, April 14, 2021 when taskforce resolution was adopted.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.