

## Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6 pm

Zoom Recording: [https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN\\_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ\\_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS\\_QY?startTime=1644534151000](https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS_QY?startTime=1644534151000) (Passcode: c4F?0q?r)

### 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

- The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### **\*\*A QUORUM WAS PRESENT\*\***

- **Present:** Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, JaNay Wilborn, Khalid Kamau
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs), Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs)

#### Opening Comments

- **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado** requested confirmation that all members received the previous meeting minutes and proposed agenda via email.

#### Approval of February 10, 2022 Agenda

- **Marcus Coleman** made a motion to approve the February 10, 2022 agenda. **JaNay Wilborn** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Adoption of January 13, 2022 Minutes

- **JaNay Wilborn** made a motion to approve the January 13, 2022 Minutes. **Marcus Coleman** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Taskforce Organizational Structure Tasks

*Chair requested top three areas of improvement to achieve tangible goals of the task force from each member. Responses and discussion below:*

#### **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado**

1. Education
  2. Fair distribution and return of resources in areas such as healthcare, libraries, sewers and additional County related responsibilities
  3. Land
  4. People of African descent being compensated for the exploitation of their labor
- Task force goals include creating an assessment of where needs are across the County, ensuring tangible results, and creating a definition of what reparations will mean for residents. Examples of successful processes used by similar groups were provided.

## Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6 pm

Zoom Recording: [https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN\\_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ\\_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS\\_QY?startTime=1644534151000](https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS_QY?startTime=1644534151000) (Passcode: c4F?0q?r)

- Believes entire County has benefited from African American labor and this shows a nationwide interconnection of County responsibilities. Example provided: three largest joint stock exchange companies.

### Marcus Coleman

1. Land
2. DNA Testing: Use to establish reparations eligibility
  - Fulton County should provide DNA testing to all black residents. Historical black colleges and universities in Fulton County should be identified as the collection sites for these DNA tests. This will allow a legal binding document to prove residents are descendants of Fulton County slaves.
  - Shared DNA results with members, recently took a test in December 2021. Believes DNA tests are necessary to show who will be eligible for any financial reparations.
    - Chairwoman Karcheik Sims Alvarado agreed DNA testing requirements are necessary when providing compensation but acknowledged this might be difficult to achieve for some residents.
3. Education including scholarships
  - Eligibility requirements will include documented Fulton County records and DNA test results.

### JaNay Wilborn

1. Secondary education including scholarships
2. Homeownership including down payment assistance

### Mayor Khalid Kamau

1. Financial reparations (with interest) for under investments in County Infrastructure (sewer, parks, health clinics)
2. A longitudinal study by the County Health department on the epigenetic effects on institutional racism
3. Mental Health Services, particularly an allocation for certified psychologists who will run community programs to help deal with generational trauma of post-traumatic stress of institutional racism
4. A detailed apology
  - There has not been a formal apology and there should be one from Fulton County adopted by the Board of Commissioners this year. This apology needs to be specific and outline the scope of proposed reparations. He does not believe an institution will provide funding without an apology and believes an apology is spiritual. Provided examples of what can be included in the apology.
  - Marcus Coleman supports an apology to be used for strategic purposes. Shared 2008 apology from U.S. House of Representatives for the institution of slavery and subsequent discriminatory laws. Nine states have officially apologized for their enslavement of Africans.

## Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6 pm

Zoom Recording: [https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN\\_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ\\_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS\\_QY?startTime=1644534151000](https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS_QY?startTime=1644534151000) (Passcode: c4F?0q?r)

- **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims Alvarado** questioned whether the creation of this task force should be seen as an apology or if Fulton County Commissioners not voting in support of this task force is a statement that they are not apologetic or would not agree to an apology.
- **JaNay Wilborn** would like the apology to be financial and not only words. Does not believe an apology would be helpful since there needs to be deliverable actions to aid people in need now. Believes spiritual goals and government should remain separate.
  - **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims Alvarado** agreed an apology would not be helpful. Read an excerpt from a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. regarding “the beloved community.”

### *California Reparations Task Force Invitation*

#### **Marcus Coleman**

- Bruce’s Beach is a resort in the process of being returned to the rightful family at the end of this month. The location is similar to Stone Mountain Park in Georgia since it has Confederate statues and needed state legislators to be involved.
- L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn and her assistant led the land giveback in L.A. County and will make a presentation at the next Reparations Task Force meeting in March 2022. They will be open to questions and comments from members.
- Kavon Ward is also credited with being the leader of this victory. He will reach out to her soon and follow-up with members, encouraged a visit to her website: [www.wheremyland.org](http://www.wheremyland.org).

#### **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado**

- Looking forward to talking to L.A. County next month to get ideas about how this task force can begin to make the case for restitution in Fulton County that can later be used as a blueprint for other counties.
- Data will be needed to show Fulton County responsibility. This solid foundation will help make people whole, including tangible reparations, within the next five years. Suggested including the definition of slavery, exploitation of black labor and denial of resources during Jim Crow’s legal segregation.
- Chatham County has reached out and requested a copy of the resolution which created this task force.
  - **Marcus Coleman** spoke with co-chair of DeKalb County’s reparations task force and they are currently in the stages of going through archives. Would like to continue to invite other governments who are doing similar work to share information and eventually have a round table discussion with nationwide participants.

## Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6 pm

Zoom Recording: [https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN\\_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ\\_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS\\_QY?startTime=1644534151000](https://zoom.us/rec/share/1a--RQOgcjmWwIdBl-wzTYBo5gN_2XcOfihbvIIUrfyouyyaZ_3OequuF2eE4M61.nWxSFDWeiFxfS_QY?startTime=1644534151000) (Passcode: c4F?0q?r)

*Access to Fulton County Records (maps, ordinances, budget, etc.)*

- **Marcus Coleman** requested copies of Fulton County maps showing properties or land taken by eminent domain over the years.
  - **Fran Calhoun** will follow-up with the County Attorney's Office.
- **JaNay Wilborn** and **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado** discussed the history of Fulton County, plantations as land in Henry and DeKalb counties.
- **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado** requested access to records dealing with prison labor. Referenced 13<sup>th</sup> amendment exception.

*Assistance from Fulton County Dept/ Staff*

### **Fran Calhoun**

- Provided the following Fulton County Departments as resources for records: County Attorney's Office, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Clerk of Superior Court
  - Will find out where Planning Department documents are held.
  - Has requested disparity studies completed in Fulton County by former Commissioner Emma Darnell and will share with members upon receipt.
- Will request staff support for the task force and is working with the Clerk to the Commission to determine if this office can assist with onsite research requests.
- Mentioned relevant grants recently received by County that can assist in task force.

*BOC Calendar*

- **Fran Calhoun** will send BOC calendar to members. Explained members should reach out to Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr. to gain support for funding and when they would like to make a presentation at a BOC meeting so he can add them as a discussion item on the agenda.
  - **JaNay Wilborn** cannot join members to make requests from the County due to her employment.

**Next Steps**

- **Marcus Coleman** requested a team building outing to allow members to meet in person.

**Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.