

Fulton County Reparations Task Force

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 6 pm

Zoom Recording (Passcode: D=3+hdbn):

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/2utJPKnJEb2jclV00x7C2PKbkvgOJpCig1wl79XbWeL6lZjvicWpjDHRBu94jAaK.IWnPM2xlTJOGHd3p?startTime=1646348547000>

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 6:01 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** welcomed all guests to the meeting.

Approval of March 3, 2022 Agenda

- **Mayor Khalid Kamau** made a motion to approve the March 3, 2022 agenda. **JaNay Wilborn** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of February 10, 2022 Minutes

- **Marcus Coleman** made a motion to approve the February 10, 2022 Minutes as amended. **JaNay Wilborn** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - **Jasmine Campbell** informed members of a necessary date correction, this amendment was approved unanimously.

New Business: *Presentation by Los Angeles County California Supervisor Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County California Justice and Mental Health Deputy Kyla Coates, and Los Angeles County California Communications Director Liz Odendahl*

- Each Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc. member provided brief biographies.

Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County California Supervisor

- Applauded Fulton County Government for creating the Reparations Task Force.
- Worked tirelessly in the last year with Los Angeles County lawyers and the California State Reparations Task Force to return property in the district she represents known as “Bruce’s Beach” to the Bruce family:

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- Property history, 2020 media story found in Los Angeles Times, Land Transfer history, and additional challenges provided in attached presentation.
- **SB 796** passed both the California State Assembly and Senate with bipartisan support. The bill was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 30, 2021.
- Currently working with the remaining Bruce family heirs to transfer land and Los Angeles County plans to rent the property from the family to provide a steady stream of income and help with related tax burdens. Hopes this action will start a nationwide precedent to right similar wrongs and return stolen property to black families.
- Invited Reparations Task Force members to attend the event when Los Angeles County provides deed over to the Bruce family. The time is undetermined due to a current lawsuit and ongoing family member determinations.
 - **Kyla Coates** believes it will be in April 2022.

Questions and Answers

Marcus Coleman

- Is there any compensation for lost time being given to this family?
 - **Janice Hahn**: The County owns the property, but it is in the City of Manhattan Beach. The family believes the City of Manhattan Beach would be responsible for past payments, not Los Angeles County. The City of Manhattan Beach refused to apologize to the family when requested.
- Janice Hahn provided requested confirmation of the land ownership process and eminent domain.

Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- Where will the money come from if the family is awarded compensation?
 - **Janice Hahn**: Los Angeles County has created a fund that will compensate the family with an immediate revenue stream. Currently Los Angeles County plans to pay the Bruce family monthly rent for the property despite a pending lawsuit. Also suggested the State of California, Congress and people across the country be held responsible for these types of restitution payments.
 - **Kyla Coates**: After giving the land back, Los Angeles County will transfer funds to the family from the Los Angeles County's budget as they rent the building monthly.
- Jim Crow data is easily accessible but since this did not occur during that time period, what language was used to gain support?
 - **Janice Hahn**: Very careful with language and often used "returning stolen property" when discussing this idea.
 - **Kyla Coates**: **SB 796** included language that said this was not a gift of public funds and why the property was being returned to benefit society.
- What do you say to whites who refuse to admit there has been any stolen land from African Americans?

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- **Janice Hahn**: Believes the conversation in the Country is just starting and meeting people where they are is important. Politically, she personally remains courageous and acknowledges her own ignorance. Provided example of the difficulty the all-white City of Manhattan Beach Council members had when deciding not to place a plaque on the beach. Also provided an example of her father's civil rights actions as an elected official.
- Requested a copy of the resolution adopted by Los Angeles County.
 - **Kyla Coates** agreed to send a copy of the resolution and bill to the Reparations Task Force.

Mayor Khalid Kamau

- Would like to cross reference all Fulton County owned property to determine who may need to be given property back. Are other Los Angeles County properties being looked at for this purpose? Are there people who have requested a similar action?
 - **Janice Hahn**: Officially Los Angeles County has not started researching additional properties. There are several citizens in the City of Manhattan Beach that feel their homes in this area were taken unlawfully. For example, a city ordinance prevented other resorts from being built on the land which limited opportunities for black families to restart in the area.
 - **Kyla Coates**: Kavon Ward's "Where is my land" is a national organization is dedicated to studying this issue, website provided: www.whereismyland.org.
- Are there any policy considerations for what to do when private property that was stolen from people is presented?
 - **Janice Hahn**: It is difficult if the property is not owned by Los Angeles County, but conversations have started in other areas of the nation. A large amount of money needs to be provided by Congress to address this issue. As a result of Native American groups that contacted Los Angeles County due to land being originally taken from them, Los Angeles County will try to be more inclusive in the future.
- Requested details on apologies.
 - **Janice Hahn**: Governor Newsom apologized when signing the bill into law, the City of Manhattan Beach refused to apologize, and unsure if Los Angeles County apologized in resolution but will double check.
 - **Kyla Coates**: Los Angeles County did not take the land; the City of Manhattan Beach took the land and would need to apologize.
- Provided partial list of Fulton County-Owned properties in the City of South Fulton: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/gfhr5y026iqa0qk/Fulton%20County%20Properties%20in%20South%20Fulton%20%28partial%2C%2026Sep2017%29.pdf?dl=0>.

Janay Wilborn

- How do you fairly include those who are not African Americans, such as Native Americans?
 - **Janice Hahn**: Met with Native American groups on this issue and always acknowledges Native American tribes when making public appearances. Telling the truth in curriculum is another goal that will help similar situations.

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- **Marcus Coleman**: While it is important to be inclusive, the focus of the Fulton County Reparations Task Force should be on African Americans.
- How is Los Angeles County set up? Fulton County Government is fully municipalized with 15 cities and only provides the following services: Elections, Health & Human Services, Justice/Courts, and Property Tax Collection.
 - **Janice Hahn**: Los Angeles County is the largest county in country and is composed of 88 cities. There are also still unincorporated areas which are found in her district. Services provided include but are not limited to health and human services, mental health, jails, Department of child and family services, beach, and park operations. This was a unique situation because the State of California gave the property to Los Angeles County since they operate beaches and had a lifeguard station on the property.

Old Business:

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

- **Fran Calhoun**: Reached out to several departments but still does not have answers to where all records are held. Will follow-up with Superior Court and the Clerk to the Commission's office before the next meeting.
- **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado**: Would like to create a spreadsheet of arrests to compare labor contracts. Recently found a link of Fulton County jail records from 1904 until now but could not obtain the information when she clicked it so will continue to research.
 - **Fran Calhoun** suggested to reach out to Doug Blackmon to make it easier to access documents.

Assistance from Fulton County Departments/ Staff

- **Chairwoman Karcheik Sims-Alvarado** would like to be introduced to [Gayle Holloman](#), Fulton County Library System Executive Director.
 - **Fran Calhoun** will set up a meeting and suggested members request a staff member from the Auburn Avenue Research Library be assigned to help if staffing permits.

Next Steps

- The next proposed meeting date is Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Adjourn

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