

Fulton County Reparations Task Force
Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Recording:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/zcNVAGWHtq0MRbWiyKmiWu4mAooHC9CQGtvkxA6QLpOiqLgoYI0zr--yJ-62gi6.KOySPeUtNf_PvmKM?startTime=1672959901000

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.

- The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

- **Present:** Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado (Chair); Marcus Coleman (Vice-Chair); Elon Osby; Tamika Jackson; Shanti Vissa
- **Absent:** South Fulton Mayor Khalid Kamau; Olivia Reneau (Research Fellow)
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs); Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs); Denva Stewart (County Attorney); Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington Jr. (Board of Commissioners, District 5); Mitsah Henry (Board of Commissioners, District 5)

Adoption of January 5, 2023 Agenda

- Tamika Jackson motioned to approve the January 5, 2023 meeting agenda. Marcus Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of December 1, 2022 Minutes

- Marcus Coleman motioned to approve the December 1, 2022 meeting minutes. Tamika Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Request attendance of Commissioners Hall and Arrington for February 2023 meeting

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- Decided not to address this agenda item since Commissioner Arrington attended the meeting.

2. Access to records and databases

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- There is access to records from the last 20 years, but we need access to historical Fulton County records.
 - Commissioner Arrington: Requested information from Denva Stewart regarding where historical records are located. Fulton County has different departments with different records so narrow down request for specific time frames to help with

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gathering. Suggested making an Open Records request with the specific department if the task force cannot find them easily.

- Denval Stewart: Spoke with Tonya Grier, Clerk to the Commission who confirmed Olivia Reneau, Research Fellow has access to records. Visited Vital Records for access and was referred to Georgia Archives for more information. Suggested talking to Dr. Paxton since Vital Records falls under the Board of Health. Confirmed Jennifer Collins is the attorney for the Board of Health in the County Attorney's office.

3. Fees waived for retrieving files

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- Provided examples of the types of records needed to complete annual report and gain relevant information. There are large gaps in service and records cost \$25 per file.
 - Commissioner Arrington: Send me all requests for records and I will send to Dr. Paxton so there will not be a fee.

4. January 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting regarding budget

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- Wanted to know where funding will come from to support any task force recommendations. Requested update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending by Fulton County Government.
 - Commissioner Arrington: Fulton County has a \$1.3 billion budget per year so money for the task force should not be an issue. However, there needs to be a detailed plan on how the money will be spent. The 2023 budget will be passed at the next meeting on January 18 so will need to get budget information from the task force to make a motion on the floor as soon as possible. American Rescue Plan funding has restrictions on how it can be used so it is unlikely this will be a source.
 - Denval Stewart: ARPA money should be used for pandemic related concerns. Would funds be used to continue research or to make reparations offers? Most task forces in the County are not funded. The establishing resolution for this task force does not include any plans for general, operational funding. Commissioner Arrington has been working on providing per diems or stipends for task forces, but this has not been approved by the full Board of Commissioners at this time.
 - Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Funding would be used for both research and reparation payments.
 - Marcus Coleman, Vice Chair: Does not believe there is another task force who will be addressing recommendation on forms of reparations. As a result, this task force needs County funding to work efficiently, and we can send a budget request directly to Commissioner Arrington.

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New Business

1. Research Update – Olivia Reneau and John Wright

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- No additional updates since the last report due to holidays and car accident of Olivia. In the last report there was information on Bagley Park and other communities in the Buckhead area where people were displaced due to the County claiming eminent domain. Limitations to record access has impacted the next steps of research.

Elon Osby

- Confirmed park will be renamed Historic Bagley Park. [Buckhead Heritage](#) is responsible for paying for signage and currently accepting donations. \$13,000 is current amount needed towards a total \$40,000 invoice after site visit.
 - Commissioner Arrington requested invoice be forwarded for review, he will try to find money so please add it to the budget request. Suggested the Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority might be able to underwrite costs.
- There has not been a date established for renaming the park at this time, but Mayor Andre Dickens might do a public announcement or a ceremony.
 - Commissioner Arrington requested to be informed of ceremony date.

Marcus Coleman, Vice Chair

- Believes what happened in Bruce's Beach was a failure. The family sold the property back to Los Angeles County for \$20 million. Encouraged anyone who receives funding for reparations holds on to it. Believes there should be a financial literacy course to go along with any reparations provided by Fulton County.

2. Preparing for Annual Report (possibly March/April 2023)

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- Would like to provide report to the Board of Commissioners on what the task force has accomplished so far soon. The outline of the report is lengthy and shows how important access to records will be to continue research.

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Marcus Coleman, Vice Chair

- Chairman Pitts made a replacement to the task force and we have not heard from her.
 - Tamika Jackson: On board with research done so far and is interested in this topic. Requested guidance on how she can assist and contribute to task force goals.

3. Organizing Public Meetings by District

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- This is important work and not many people know we exist. Would like task force to serve as a blueprint for other counties to use. One proposal is for the first townhall meeting in February at Morehouse College to connect with young people and generate research allies. We want to hear from the public before making recommendations.
 - Commissioner Arrington recommended making a report at each Commissioner's district meetings. For example, he is already hosting regular townhall meetings. Welcomed the task force to present at an upcoming townhall.
- What is the protocol for organizing a meeting?
 - Denval Stewart: No protocols for the task force to organize a town hall, it would depend on participation. Suggested reaching out to nonprofits for funding.
 - Fran Calhoun brought up the use of the County logo and requested legal clarity.
 - Denval Stewart: Only the Board of Commissioners can represent Fulton County. If the County is not the sponsor of the event, the County logo cannot be used.
 - Commissioner Arrington suggested calling Morehouse to determine costs. Offered to host the meeting so please send the request for a flyer to his office.

Marcus Coleman, Vice Chair

- Agreed that selecting representatives from each school is a good idea, such as Student Government Association members. Would not feel comfortable making a report without public feedback. Mentioned the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) is excited about the townhall.
- Would like to present to mayors of each city. Can task force be placed on agenda of an upcoming monthly Board of Commissioners and Mayors meeting? We could also invite all mayors to town halls.
 - Commissioner Arrington: Typically the Board of Commissioners meets with Mayors on the first Friday of each month but a 2023 meeting schedule has not been determined yet. Please inform when the task force would like to present.

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- Would like to choose two potential dates in February for town hall.
 - Fran Calhoun: As a reminder, please select a date later in the month due to the Founder's Day of Morehouse.

4. Recommendations

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair

- How will we send the budget requests before the next Board of Commissioners meeting on January 18, 2023?
 - Commissioner Arrington: Please submit all budget requests in writing. Each member should call their appointing member and request a favorable vote.
- Will send report and funding requests before January 18th
 - Commissioner Arrington: The deadline to submit information is actually 10 a.m. on Friday, January 13th.
 - Denal Stewart: Thursday, January 12th at noon would be better.
- Use research to help make people who experienced slavery and Jim Crow whole. Believes if all documents were in one place it would be very helpful. Therefore, one of her recommendations will be for a reparations focused facility located in the Historical District Development Corporation (HDDC) on Auburn Avenue. Fulton County could preserve the buildings and lease the property from HDDC. For example, it can be another branch of the library and show support for Alonzo Herndon who is a former slave.
 - Commissioner Arrington: Not sure the task force is ready to make recommendations yet. Suggested engaging economists to help create a well-developed plan which should include associated costs before making recommendations. This will help justify why reparations are due and gain support for the recommended amount. Provided examples such as attorney Rodney Strong or an HBCU.
- Requested committee members provide examples of recommendations:
 - Elon Osby: Descendants of families who owned property in Fulton County that were displaced and lost property should receive reparations. The property value should be adjusted when making recommendation.
 - Shanti Vissa: Clear ancestry is proven by anyone who receives reparations.
 - Marcus Coleman: Monetary value of land with financial education included; Mental health and medical issues; Criminal Justice.

5. Secretary Election

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- Derval Stewart: Bylaws does not set out specific ways to select officers so if there is a volunteer then a vote can be taken.
- Commissioner Arrington: Compensation might be a factor but there does not seem to be a volunteer.
- Fran Calhoun: Suggested members reach out to Tamika Jackson who expressed interest in serving earlier.
- Jasmine Campbell: We can record future meetings, but I will not be able to take minutes beginning in February due to the 2023 Legislative Session starting next Monday.

Public Comments

- Members answered questions and addressed comments in *Chat attached*.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

00:45:56 Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr.: when is the renaming ceremony?

00:48:38 Larry Riley: What's her name? Who appointed her?

00:49:59 Larry Riley: Have all the black commissioners appointed two members?

00:56:21 Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr.: a park in buckhead it was taken by Fulton County under false pretenses.

00:56:39 Simeon Harris: There also needs to be safeguards in place to ensure the property can be maintained. Without community wealth, any property is at risk for loss. Reparations must bring all of the descendant of slaves up, together

00:57:37 Simeon Harris: The failure isn't the family's. It's the lack of infrastructure and a failure in legislation

00:57:41 Larry Riley: Please stop using Evanston IL as an example of local reparations. thats a failure too!

00:57:55 Simeon Harris: Evanston is definitely a failure

00:58:13 Juliet: I agree Larry, Evanston is a Housing Program.

01:00:51 Nana Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo: Evanston Is a good model for local reparations. Evanston is not a Housing program , housing is just the first initiative of Evanston reparations

01:01:28 Larry Riley: the budget should include Family Tree training in black institutions and libraries in Fulton County.

01:01:34 Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr.: I thought each person in Evanston was supposed to get \$100,000

01:02:17 Simeon Harris: Nope, it basically turned into a down payment lottery

01:03:08 Juliet: Nana I said what I said, its a housing program.

01:03:27 Larry Riley: Evanston can't even find sufficient funding for the program.

01:03:35 Simeon Harris: Right, Juliet! Only 16 residents received any benefit

01:03:52 Juliet: Its not reparations.

01:04:00 Simeon Harris: <https://abc7chicago.com/evanston-reparations-program-illinois-il/11465347/>

01:04:11 Nana Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo: what is the proposed date for Morehouse Townhall?

01:04:13 Simeon Harris: Totally, not reparations

01:04:38 Simeon Harris: You can't speak reparations now without the ADOS Advocacy Foundation

01:05:02 Larry Riley: You need someone from ADOS to advise you. ADOS started this recent Reparations movement

01:05:33 Tamika Jackson: My apologies everyone. I have a hard stop at 7:00 for another call. I'm afraid I need to drop.

01:06:13 Juliet: Marcus, What about ADOS? The movement that started the Reparations conversation in the twenty first century. You may want to contact them.

01:06:18 william dickens: ADOSfoundation.org

01:06:50 Simeon Harris: You all need to come correct

01:06:53 Nana Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo: ADOS DID NOT START THE CURRENT REPARATIONS MOVEMENT. ADOS HAS BEEN A DISTRACTION TO THE REPARATIONS MOVEMENT

01:07:38 Juliet: Nana, Please don't do that. The documentation that they started it is all over social media. Stop it.

01:08:07 Larry Riley: We got receipts.

01:08:39 Nana Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo: NANA GOT RECEIPTS AS WELL
01:09:42 Simeon Harris: Nana got those failure receipts of the mess NARC and NCobra made in Evanston. That's your receipt.
01:09:55 Simeon Harris: And you should hold that failure
01:10:04 Juliet: Nana, I am a member of ADOS and I sent the copy of AB3121 to Councilman Baker before he ever wrote the Reparations resolution for South Fulton. So Nana please don't say things like that unless you know whom you are talking.
01:10:40 Simeon Harris: Thanks Juliet, your advocacy is important
01:10:42 Larry Riley: NCOBRA was caught off guard by ADOS and is now rushing to get stuff done in the reparations space. They are just slapping the word reparations on anything .
01:12:07 william dickens: Show your receipts. What is yall black agenda? I'll be waiting on them receipts. Secondly do you got any receipts on narc or NCobra do any good work on reparations?
01:12:15 Juliet: I agree Larry. And saying anything.
01:13:20 Juliet: Fulton County didn't Fund this for a reason. They will let you know why again.
01:15:49 Nana Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo: I HAVE BEEN ASKED NOT TO ARGUE IN THIS FORMAT, I HAVE RECEIPTS AND ALMOST 30 YEARS IN THE REPARATIONS MOVEMENT.
01:15:59 Addri: There was a swear campaign by Harvard AGAINST ADOS. You may want to check the retraction nana 😊
01:17:06 Larry Riley: Before we talk about what reparations look like. We have to define eligibility. Has eligibility been defined?
01:17:22 william dickens: So if it so many people doing work for reparations, why are they not here tonight. ADOS is here.
01:17:57 Larry Riley: We not talking about receipts from 1989. We talking about receipts in the past 5 years
01:18:40 Larry Riley: Reparations wasn't even being talked about in the mainstream until ADOS came about around 5 years ago.
01:18:44 Addri: 30 years no results? ☐
01:18:56 Larry Riley: Right 🙄
01:18:57 Juliet: Nana, sounds like you are N'Cobra but don't have any receipts for ADOS. Sounds like you are just repeating negative talking points.
01:19:00 Marvina: Nana you have been working on reparations for "30 years" yet we done have them? My be an indication that it is time to pass the torch to the next generation, sometimes you have to accept that what you are doing is not working! What is the definition of insanity?
01:19:04 william dickens: Lineage base is the only way to do it
01:19:11 Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr.: we're here to try to get some results one county at a time not to bicker with each other
01:19:18 Addri: LINEAGE BASED WEALTH!! Yes!!
01:20:20 Simeon Harris: Debate is needed Commissioner. So is expertise. Describing it as "bicker" ing is dismissive.
01:20:22 Juliet: Commissioner Arrington, I suggest you contact ADOS if you want to do reparations.
01:20:26 Marvina: Black people are the most financially literate people on the planet! We have LITERALLY made something out of NOTHING!
01:20:44 Addri: Who is more financially literate than the people who have a history of making ends meet. Sounds pretty literate to me. We need to anchor our claim in lineage and data!! No work-around will suffice
01:21:01 Larry Riley: Marvina I agree.

01:21:16 Marvina: Who else can feed a family of 5 on a low fixed income??🙄

01:21:52 Marvina: Addri those are facts!!

01:22:37 Addri: Family Tree training like Larry said. Makes perfect sense

01:23:09 william dickens: So did white peoples have to get do mental health no the government just keep giving them money. Understand they did all the rap, lynchings, kidnapping and etc. no one is saying they need mental health. I wonder why?🙄

01:26:05 Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr.: I saw people attacking one group vs another group. My hope is that this taskforce will gather information from all groups advocating for reparations. and use them to make their recommendations to Fulton County.

01:26:39 Addri: We can absolutely eat the meat and spit out the bones when it comes to the groundwork laid by our ancestors advocacy. We do not need to sit on our hands while we have data that was not available then, that supports the harms caused. We need to be ahead of the curve and anchor this claim in lineage and data.

01:26:40 Larry Riley: Our place of origin is America.

01:26:55 william dickens: What !

01:27:03 Shameka Andrews: Right ???

01:27:10 Juliet: Marvin Arrington Jr. If you want to do reparations contact ADOS.

01:28:19 Shameka Andrews: <https://www.adosfoundation.org/>

01:29:28 Larry Riley: Has eligibility been defined?

01:29:40 Bonita lacy: Reduce regulatory fees for descendants of slaves to get into business. 2. Have them identified as a category in the race classification as a specific lineage group of descendants to be used when aggregating data for homeless, income, employment business owned by them. 3. Designate a housing trust for affordable housing requiring developers to designate units for descendants built into their development esp on lands previously owned by descendants of slaves. 4. Have a 4 percent set aside taxation for any new developments and renewals of property taxes esp corporate owned by people who are not descendants going towards a reparations fund for descendants of slaves.

01:29:47 Juliet: Reparations is owed to the American Descendants of Slavery from the Federal Government. Fulton County can collect the data and make recommendations and show support.

01:31:11 Nana Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo: What is the proposed date for Morehouse Townhall , I hope the later half of February.

01:33:26 Bonita lacy: Have each of your state representatives and senators make a public statement if they support or deny support of reparations for the descendants they represent as they go to DC to represent the Fulton county residents. learn more about the 4-40-400.net project

01:38:24 Simeon Harris: So you aren't interested in working with multiple groups?

01:38:38 Larry Riley: Is Miss Sims Alvarado ADOS? What is her lineage?

01:39:07 william dickens: We still don't have reparations. So have they been doing work are sitting on their hands?

01:39:19 Juliet: Marcus, You need more than one source. N'Cobra cannot be your only source. Reparations is to large to have one source.

01:39:57 Juliet: Have them on this platform just like you are having N'Corbra on.

01:40:09 Simeon Harris: We have all of the above and would like to be on an agenda to present. Please go to adosfoundation.org

01:40:15 Addri: I'd say the latter, William lol

01:41:28 Addri: So this goes down in history? I like that 🙏 We need to be aware of who was on what side

01:42:39 william dickens: You right addri

01:44:49 Bonita lacy: What is the timeline for the task force to actually get the regular commissioners to vote on providing reparations?

01:45:39 Larry Riley: Thank you

01:46:40 Larry Riley: I said lineage, nothing about someone's race

01:46:50 Simeon Harris: Asking about ethnicity isn't foolishness". Understanding heritage in relation to ideology is important. It also helps us understand each others perspective. You seem a little negative, Sir

01:46:57 Bonita lacy: Have you done any community mapping of the various reparations groups in Fulton county including faith groups who have been doing local work?

01:47:39 Juliet: Marcus your bias is showing and that is a problem. Its only going to show more at the townhalls.

01:48:01 Marvinina: We have a right to question who is speaking for us in our fight for justice!! I don't understand why Marcus or anyone would have a issue with that! I respect the Doctor for being so transparent!

01:48:08 william dickens: Do anyone with task force understanding lineage versus race?

01:48:21 Fran Calhoun: fran.calhoun@fultoncountyga.gov

01:48:37 Commissioner Marvin Arrington Jr.: marvin.arrington@fultoncountyga.gov

01:49:07 william dickens: Do anyone with the task force understand lineage versus race?