



State of Illinois  
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

## African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission Full Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2024 at 1:00 pm

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### Meeting Minutes

**I. Call to Order – 1:05 pm**

**II. Roll Call of Commissioners**

Commissioner Algee - Present  
Secretary Elion – Present  
Commissioner Mayers – Present 1:09 pm  
Commissioner Moore – Present Virtually  
Commissioner Sachnoff - Present  
Chair Slaughter – Present  
Commissioner Williams – Present 1:15 pm  
Vice Chair Taylor – Present 1:15 pm  
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Present Virtually  
Senator Belt – Absent  
Representative Harper - Absent

Quorum was established with 7 members in attendance in person.

**III. African American EPAC Presentation**

- a. Coordinator Hiram White from the African American Employment Plan Council attended the meeting in person and presented on their annual report. Slides presented were displayed on the screen and given to ADCRC.
- b. Commissioner Mayers asked if AA EPAC looks at procurement contracts. Coordinator White responded they do not, but they receive questions on them and refer them to state employees.
- c. Commissioner Algee asked about the prison population diversity statistic which Coordinator White did not have but he would provide them.
- d. Secretary Elion asked about the role of state employment in contracting and about the gender disparity amongst African American state employees. Coordinator White stated that AA EPAC does not handle procurement and that their focus is on race, but not gender. He added that there are more women in entry level positions and more men in higher positions. Director DeVaughn added that 93% of state positions are unionized and 40% is available to retire, but not all senior aged. Today's work and promotions and hiring will impact procurement decision makers tomorrow. BEP program works with CMS to



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- ensure all contracts have 30% aspiration goal and dollars are 19% spent with BEP withing CMS being responsible for about \$41M. The CEI process developed in CMS focuses on numerator and denominators.
- e. Chair Slaughter recommended disaggregating African Americans into descendant community and non-descendant. Coordinator White agreed their data is aggregated and would like to partner to do so.
  - f. Vice Chair Taylor asked how to ensure rate does not decline and what are diverse hiring challenges? Coordinator White stated as a seasonal highway maintainer and continued to gain degrees and be an example of how to move up. Pension education is important in recruiting and retaining employees. All EPAC's are doing this successfully. Some citizens do not understand their eligibility. His outlook is that percentages will increase. Vice Chair Taylor also asked if African Americans being hard to reach and hard to serve are the explicit roadblocks, especially in southern IL. Coordinator White agreed because state offices may not be downstate, but positions are available and need promotion.
  - g. Commissioner Sachnoff asked for recommendations on navigating state government bureaucracy to do the council's work. Coordinator White stated a focus on statute language and having tools to achieve goals are helpful.
  - h. Chair Slaughter asked when does the survey go out and when can we collaborate. Coordinator White stated that now is the time to collaborate on survey questions which are online.

#### IV. Chair's Report

- a. FAQ for ADCRC was presented with select questions and answers read aloud to public. These will eventually be published on the website.

#### V. March 2024 Minutes

- a. Spelling of "coordinator" and "Cliff Graham" instead of Tip Graham.
- b. **Motion to approve the following March minutes made by Secretary Elion, seconded by Commissioner Sachnoff – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

#### VI. Public Engagement and Public Education Subcommittee Chair's Report

##### a. Promotional Events

- i. Secretary Elion mentioned that he, Commissioner Slaughter and Moore attended the State of Black Springfield Event on Saturday, April 6. It was a great opportunity to meet local leaders and hear local issues African Americans were experiencing. Outreach for ADCRC Public Hearing expert speakers were made with positive response. Assistant Director Williams was also in attendance. AW good setup for panels but opportunity for improvement scheduling wise. Event was too long to keep attendance. Vice Chair Taylor requested survey document that was distributed at the event.
- ii. Vice Chair Taylor mentioned that the IL Juneteenth Pageant Queen will be hosting a meet and greet which will be a great opportunity to share the newsletter and drive traffic to the website.
- iii. Coordinator Johnson mentioned that Cathy, the organizer Annual Juneteenth Block Party at Du Sable Museum on Wednesday June 19 in Hyde Park reached out to her to invite ADCRC. Commissioner Williams will be speaking at this event.



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- iv. Commissioner Algee stated that SEIU will have a Juneteenth event at Du Sable Museum the following, Saturday.
  - v. DEI Peer to Peer event will be attended by Chair Slaughter and Chair Williams on the October 15<sup>th</sup> date.
  - vi. Chair Slaughter and Commissioner Williams attended the BlackRoots Alliance reparations conference will be held on April 13 where 12 councils attending. They discussed reparations models and gain insights from similar commissions have done.
  - vii. Equity And Transformation has made a collaboration request with ADCRC.
  - viii. Like Coordinator Hiram White from the African American Employment Plan Council presenting at the April ADCRC meeting, Chair Slaughter has scheduled additional presenters.
  - ix. Chair Slaughter mentioned that he, Commission Mayers and Williams attended the National Reparations Research Consortium on March 21. Commissioner Mayers stated there was an impressive number of organizations represented and he attended the policy breakout group with 5 others with diverse thinking requiring better coordination. Commissioner Williams added reparations should have a principled federal responsibility goal in addition to local goal. He also added there is a lack of national knowledge of the Illinois ADCRC.
  - x. Chair Slaughter announced a request for collaboration from the International Civil Society Working Group to the Permanent Forum on Peoples of African Descent Youth Subcommittee of which he is the research manager. They are looking for respondents for their survey.
  - xi. Chair Slaughter has mentioned the NCOBRA cochair is organizing for the DNC.
- b. **Campaign Activity Updates**
- i. PR RFP meetings have started, and Secretary Elion and Chair Slaughter have been attending them.
  - ii. Chair Slaughter also presented the newsletter that has been emailed to full ADCRC.
  - iii. Leveraging legislator email lists to promote ADCRC events was discussed in the subcommittee meeting as well. CMS has volunteered assistance in this outreach effort. CM supports & Steven will assist. TW mentioned many localities are addressing reparations, but in principle the issue is federal in goal. He added ADCRC needs to raise national awareness as it not usually mentioned before NYC.
- c. **Public Hearings**
- i. Secretary Elion presented speaker and venue options in the subcommittee meeting for the Chicago Public Hearing.

**VII. CMS Coordinator Update**

- a. **FAQs for the website – still have some outstanding questions to be answered by commissioners.**
  - i. Cathy requested edits to FAQ that was sent Tuesday, April 16.
- b. **Feedback to finalize the Newsletter**
  - i. Draft of Spring Newsletter design created by IOCI and a request for ADCRC feedback was made and due before April 20.
- c. **Upcoming Guest Speakers**



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- i. May 17th - Sommer Iqbal of Evanston Reparations Commission, Presentation on Reparations Toolkit
- ii. June 21st – Bruce Montgomery will present for the Commission on Equity and Inclusion’s annual report findings
- iii. October 15th - Chair Slaughter & Member Williams will speak at the Illinois Office of Equity Peer-to-Peer Exchange
- iv. Chair Slaughter added Kamm Howard on the model of the Slavery Era Disclosure Bill, Nkechi Taifa of the Reparations Education Project, and Oak Park Reparation Commission’s Chair Christian Harris on their work.
- v. Commissioner Mayers added that the New York Reparations Commission would like to collaborate and possibly present.

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Research subcommittee**

- i. Chair Slaughter mentioned that the IGA is with U of I for review and signature and then will come back to CMS for signature to start on 7/1.
- ii. U of I is also asking to send over any resumes for research assistance etc.

**b. PR subcommittee**

- i. Two initial meetings have taken place including a kickoff meeting for procedural items. Weekly meetings are set for every Friday afternoon

**c. Attendance By-Laws**

- i. Parliamentarian Ninfo mentioned the proposed attendance by-law changes and virtual attendance procedure.
- ii. Commissioner Mayers noticed legislators have not attended meeting in person and ask if any carve-out language would be introduced. Director DeVaughn suggested consistency and valuing allyship with legislators.
- iii. Vice Chair Taylor asked about information for Vice Chair duties write up. She stressed the importance of detailed everyone’s duties and responsibilities.
- iv. Vice Chair Taylor added that page 8 article 6 and requested more vested interest and roles of subcommittee activities. She suggested an Equity and Parity Subcommittee, Reporting and Recommendations Subcommittee, Corporate Accountability Subcommittee, etc. Chair Slaughter added there is an approved Scope of Work and Research Agenda that the ADCRC’s work flows from and will be the source of recommendations. He also emphasized that all lived experience, expertise, and recommendations are welcomed. Vice Chair Taylor stated most people work under a script or structure to organize work to extend subcommittees. Commissioner Mayers stated that ADCRC is having a hard time getting attendance and quorum at subcommittees that would limit capacity. He asked what is happening with appointments. He questioned whether subcommittees can just plan informationally instead of making decision.
- v. Chair Slaughter recommended reviewing Vice Chair Taylor’s edits and voting to approve next meeting.
- vi. Parliamentarian Ninfo added recommended amendment will consider extenuating circumstances. She also clarified that this amendment is specific to the full commission meetings, and not subcommittees.



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- vii. Chief of Special Projects of Governor's office Magda Derisma-Oyewole offered office support but stressed importance of making quorum.
  - viii. **Motion to approve the amendment to by laws for attendance policy made by Commissioner Sachnoff, seconded by Commissioner Mayers – all voted in favor– Motion passed.**
- d. Public Hearing Planning
- i. **Scheduling Role Assignment**
    1. **Dates/Times**
      - June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Bilandic Building – Dr. Daniel Davis  
Enslavement, Dr. Peter Cole Racial Terror – Dr. Julius Jones Political Disenfranchisement
      - July 6 – Kennedy-King College – Dr. Daniel Davis  
Enslavement, Director Myles Francis Racial Terror, \_\_\_\_\_  
Political Disenfranchisement
      - July 13<sup>th</sup> – Kennedy-King College Dr. Daniel Davis  
Enslavement, Dr. Peter Cole Racial Terror, Dr. Julius Jones Political Disenfranchisement
    2. **Location**
      - Kennedy King-College
      - Bilandic Building – some concerns with parking for this venue
      - Commissioner Algee also stated that Trinity Church could also be a potential location
      - Director DeVaughn suggested Olive Harvey
    3. **Speakers**
      - Dr. Daniel Davis – KKC Social Sciences
      - Dr. Julius Jones – UNCW History – Chicago History Museum
      - Dr. Peter Cole – WIU History – CRR19
      - Dr. Franklin Cosey-Gay – CRR19 – U of C VRP
      - Director Myles Francis – CRR19 – U of C CCYVP
      - Commissioner Algee recommended Dr. Otis Moss III as a potential speaker
        - Secretary Elion mentioned there are 9 community speakers slots available that he could potentially fill
  - i. Secretary Elion presented speaker and venue combination options in the subcommittee meeting for the Chicago Public Hearing. He added context on limiting speaker and venue availability along with the desire to use other organizations' Juneteenth events to promote the public



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hearing. Chair Slaughtered stated that he does not prefer the Bilandic Building due to parking. Commissioner Mayers and Algee stated July 6 was not preferred due to the holiday weekend.

- ii. **Motion to accept the 7/13 date at Kennedy King College for a public hearing was made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Commissioner Sachnoff, then Secretary Elion, Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Sachnoff, Commissioner Algee, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Cosey-Lane all voted in favor, none voted against, Chair Slaughter, Vice Chair Taylor, and Commissioner Mayers abstained. With 6 Commissioners voting in favor and three abstaining motion passes.**
- iii. Secretary Elion mentioned using the Public Hearing Planning spreadsheet list of 60 organizations to conduct outreach to which he displayed on screen. He mentioned additionally there are several hundred individual email addresses to conduct outreach to. He added that the PR Consultant will not be onboarded by July 13.
- iv. Cathy mentioned with these details of speakers and venue forwarded to them IOCI can create a flyer and website can also be updated.
- v. Chair Slaughter added that there will be additional rounds on public hearings on the additional topic areas.
- vi. Commissioner Mayers requested a west side of Chicago location, specifically at Malcolm X college. He suggested maybe adding a 4<sup>th</sup> meeting if needed to cover the west side.
- vii. Secretary Elion clarified that additional events will be done in each region and encouraging the public to provide location recommendations through the ADCRC website so that it is documented. He also added that after the 3 sets of hearings for the harms focus areas are completed, the should be more public hearings on the recommendations on reparations.
- viii. Vice Chair Taylor responded emphasizing the importance of reading, listening, and voting on equity in regional location selections when adding meetings.
- ix. Vice Chair Taylor asked when PR procurement meetings are Secretary Elion replied that they are weekly on Fridays at 2:00 pm. Assistant Director Williams stated that only 2 subject matter experts are required.

**IX. New Business**

a. Strategic Planning Session

- i. Chair Slaughter stated that CMS is working on making this happen but in the interest of time we will forego.

**X. Public Comment**

- 5 in person attendees
- Founding President of King Day on May 17, 1974 reintroduced in city council this past Wednesday. Supreme court ruled unconstitutional means of segregation that created so much harm that it is doubtful it can be overcome. Senior Citizens are the harmed individuals that are still living with impact. In September 2001 UN agreed chattel slavery was bad. Identify ourselves as indigenous native American Africans first and then create a classification for



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- ourselves like what was done on August 4, 2023 by Governor JB Pritzker. My name is Evangel Mamadee, advocate for Indigenous Black Americans' Rights.
- My name is Howard Ray with the West Humboldt Park Community Coalition. Reconstruction Era Reparations Act (aka RERAN) is a binding referendum waiving property tax for African Americans Descendants Of Slavery they hope to get on the November ballot. It will safeguard DOS community by making lifting burden of property tax making housing more affordable and incentivizing people to move. Chicago was founded by black man. Impact of slavery reverberates today. Inaccurate census counts has hindered progress of DOS. Time for action via RERAN. Outreaching ADCRC and others for support in campaign through volunteers or financial assistance. They support 20 ILCS 405 reparations of DOS neighborhoods through investment homeownership. Asked later about the incarcerated being counted in counties as funding. 41 townships have tax relief. New Lenox does not pay any taxes. Director DeVaughn stated IL agencies have this data available online.
  - William Crosby has been involved in reparations 52 years. He was a founding student of Malcolm X college. He is a member of the united front who are the Founders of Black United Front out of Cairo, IL which was the subject of the Racism in Flood Time report. Built 354 homes in Cairo assisted by Paul Simon. The city caught slaves and sent them back south. There are 4 stages of reparations. Chicago was a French Colony and Du Sable came from Haiti. We have been displaced as a people. The black community has been displaced and Cairo is like a ghost town. He worked in many cities in rural Illinois so meetings must be in all cities. Public relations should be by young people with flyers to be sent to every town. Commissioners must listen to citizens. \$400M should paid to African Americans for reparations. His family was in Chicago for 100 years. He disagrees with Juneteenth because there were more slaves in Mississippi later. How many dollars does the state give out and what percentage is given to African Americans?
  - Terrance Taylor from East St. Louis. Don't get caught up in small issues, so we can keep moving forward. People are looking for monetary payments. Current initiatives and organizations are in place for employment and housing but are not effective. The ADCRC Commissioners are brilliant minds. Let's get the information out so that all people understand. Appreciates increased ADCRC attendance because this is an important issue.
  - Magda Derisma-Oyewole emphasized need for diversity on commission and as they continue to try to fill vacancies on the commission. They are actually looking for people from Quad Cities, Central and Southern Illinois.
  - Robert McKay veteran of coast guard, retired from the Chicago Fire Department and has been in the reparations fight for years with NCOBRA. We've been promoting Calle House who was born into slavery in 1860 and petitioned government for reparations for people who picked cotton. Pension, postal, and justice department sent her to jail for a year in response to her petition. This conspiracy was similar to the RICO act today. The generational legacy has been passed down is poverty and homeless along with disinvestment in the community. The reparations process is due to people including 12 million slaves sent back to Liberia. They are in need of public aid. Public Relations outreach that needs to be done across the state in every county. I have a radio program on Sundays from 4-6pm on WVON and he can share from the platform.



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Virtual - no virtual attendee asked to make a public comment

- Cicely McClennon
- Cordell Longstreath
- Marchon
- N'Cobra Co-Chair Bro Darrell Heard
- Reema Saleh
- Shannon Wilson
- Wesley Rodgers – Chicago Documenters
- Mary Ray
- Call In (708) 288-\*\*\*\*
- Call In (773) 499-\*\*\*\*
- Call in (708) 218

**XI. Adjournment**

- **A Motion to Adjourn was made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Commissioner Mayers, all voted in favor – motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.**