



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

**African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission
Full Committee Meeting
Friday, December 15, 2024 at 1:00 pm**

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order – 1:05 pm

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Commissioner Algee – Present 1:40 pm
Secretary Elion – Present
Commissioner Jones – Present
Commissioner Mayers – Present 1:30 pm
Commissioner Moore – Absent
Commissioner Sachnoff – Absent
Chair Slaughter – Present
Commissioner Phelon – Present
Commissioner Williams – Present
Vice Chair Taylor – Absent
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Present
Senator Belt – Absent
Representative Harper – Absent
Commissioner Trask – Present
Commissioner Watson – Absent
Representative Weber – Present virtually

Quorum was established with 9 members in attendance in person.

III. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. **Motion to approve the November Full Commission Meeting minutes made by Secretary Elion, seconded by Commissioner Algee – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

IV. Chair's Report

- a. Chair Slaughter represented the ADCRC at the Black Roots Alliance reparations event last Thursday where they discussed interviews and focus groups of residents. He shared the work of the ADCRC thus far. They discussed when how the Black Roots Alliance can share their data from the 800 residents interviewed. A Video will be shared online.
- b. He mentioned he attended the ILBCF policy summit with Representative Carol Ammons, Robin Rue Simmons, and Assistant Professor Lakisha David.



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V. Public Engagement Subcommittee Chair's Report – covered below

VI. CMS Coordinator Updates

- a. Program Manager Johnson shared the preferred dates for public hearings. She has been in touch with Northwestern University. Commissioner Jones has coordinated the February 8 date is available gratis and has parity with previous venues. There will be a fee for their AV team. Program Manager Johnson added that the community room is pending response. Commissioner Jones added that the community room has no stage and AV is spotty. Chair Slaughter added that the date works for his schedule.
 - i. February 22 is the primary date and February 8 secondary based on poll.
 - ii. April 26 is the primary date and April 5 secondary based on poll.
 - iii. June 7 is the primary date and June 14 secondary based on poll.
- b. The ADCRC annual report has been put together for 2024. Chair Slaughter requested adding petition of support organizations to the report.
- c. Program Manager Johnson also reminded commissioners to complete the mandatory state trainings.

VII. Old Business

- a. Public Hearing Planning
 - i. Evanston Public Hearing Planning (Quorum Required)
 1. Speakers
 - a. Separate and Unequal Education – Africa Porter(suggested by Commissioner Algee), Vertrice Boyce for any topic (suggested by Commissioner Algee), Dr. Lesley Block, Christian Perry, Dr. Michael Bennet (suggested by Chair Slaughter), Jelani Saddiq
 - b. Segregated Housing – Robin Rue Simmons, Amber Henley (Chair Slaughter suggested as she is affiliated with Tonika Lewis Johnson of Folded map project), Dr. Demetreece Griffin for all topics (suggested by Commissioner Mayers)
 - c. Unjust Legal System – Nick Cumming (suggested by Secretary Elion and Commissioner Mayers and Nick cannot do February 1 date)
 - d. Racism in Environment and Infrastructure – Bonnie Harrison (Commissioner Williams), Iyana Simba (suggested by Chair Slaughter)
 - e. **Motion to approve the suggested speaker list made by Secretary Elion, seconded by Commissioner Jones – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**
 - f. Additional speakers were suggested by Chair Slaughter (already included above).
 - g. **Motion to approve the amended speaker list made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Algee – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**
 2. Location
 - a. Program Manager Johnson reiterated that the most preferred dates based on the ADCRC poll for February were February 22 as the primary choice and February 8



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(see above) at Northwestern University's McCormick Auditorium in the Norris University Center at no charge, which has parity of previous public hearing venues.

- b. **Motion to approve the Northwestern University's McCormick Auditorium in the Norris University Center for February 8 as a primary date and February 22 as secondary date was made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Commissioner Williams – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

3. Outreach Role Delegation

- a. Secretary Elion requested that commissioners outreach each expert speaker they suggested to see their availability and update him. If there are multiple expert speakers available and interested the secondary speakers can fill the community speaker role.
- b. Secretary Elion referred commissioners to the Public Planning Spreadsheet and asked for volunteers to outreach to legislators they know and organizations, then enter them into the spreadsheet.
- c. Commissioner Algee volunteered to outreach Representative Ford, Representative Slaughter, and Attorney General Raul.

b. Research Team Updates

- i. Chair Slaughter expressed to research team the desire of the ADCRC to help review and make suggestions. A drive folder has been set up to share materials from ADCRC and public with the research team. Commissioner Williams volunteered to review the Political Disenfranchisement topic. Commissioner Trask and Secretary Elion volunteered to passively read and review sections. Chair Slaughter added that the research team has split the 11 focus areas into research teams and he is connecting them to Black Roots Alliance to connect to the data collected from citizens.

c. Public Affairs RFP Process Timeline Update

- i. Secretary Elion and Assistant Director Williams provided updates that the RFP Closing will occur on January 7 and the bid process will be opened for all that have applied.

d. ILBCF Policy Summit Debrief

- i. Chair Slaughter informed that ILBCF Policy Summit was attended by 50 people with Dr. Lakisha David of the Family Roots Genealogy Pilot & Robin Rue Simmons being added to the panel hosted by Representative Carol Ammons who serves as Joint Chairman of the ILBC. Secretary Elion added that Data Disaggregation was discussed briefly, but the Enslavement Disclosure Ordinance was not covered at all. Chair Slaughter added that the discussion also covered how the reparations work is hard and there is a lack of consensus on what to prioritize within such a large scope. He added the panel questions were directed at personal expertise of commissioners including the genealogical research conducted by Dr. David. Robin Rue Simmons framed the conversation on Evanston reparations as beginning with a focus of housing on a very large scale. She also mentioned the change of housing credit to direct cash payments with a goal of meeting the standard of satisfaction to the



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harmful community. Chair Slaughter also added that there was discussion on the large variation of the estimated financial impact of harm done that needs to be repaired. Commissioner Jones added that money in the Evanston Reparations program went initially to banks and the amount was insufficient to make repairs, but that the initial program was intended as a start tied to some limiting systems. Chair Slaughter identified the justification of more research being needed and clarifying what is happening or has happened in other geographies. Program Manager Johnson shared the urgency expressed at the Policy summit from the public for reparations policy. Chair Slaughter and Commissioner Williams had additional discussion on the political landscape nationally and locally. Commission Trask added there was networking value in being in the room together.

VIII. New Business

a. Slavery Era Disclosure Bill

i. Overview/ Discussion

1. Secretary Elion noted that HB5914 titled "Enslavement Era Disclosure and Redress Act" has been introduced by Representative Harper on November 19 towards the end of legislative session, but not passed.
2. Director Dixon mentioned HB5914 is a new act, but similar versions of the bill have been introduced by her previously in prior legislative sessions.
3. Chair Slaughter raised the following questions:
 - a. How to enforce to get institutions to disclose?
 - b. What is the incentive to share information?
 - c. What the impact of the business community?
 - d. Is there a cost of running institutions away?
 - e. What are the metrics of involvement?
 - f. How would government verify if information is falsified?
 - g. What type of programming would be paid for by redress fund?
4. Secretary Elion answered questions with his understanding of the content of HB5914.
5. Commissioner Williams asked if there is cost to providing this information for institutions.
6. Secretary Elion asked for volunteers to drive discussions on this bill. Chair Slaughter, Commissioner Jones and Secretary Elion all volunteered.
7. Secretary Elion also suggested presentation be made to the ADCRC on HB5914 by Representative Harper for Jan 17 meeting and Chair Slaughter agreed.

b. Commissioner Report Out

- i. Secretary Elion offered an update on the hiring of a CMS IT Security Risk Officer adding that he was hopeful they would enable the survey capability through the ADCRC website.
 1. Director DeVaughn replied that CMS will defer the risk of collecting survey data through the ADCRC website away from state.



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2. Commissioner Trask suggested that Dr. LaKisha David could help with her existing research as they have security controls in place to protect data that they collect.
3. Chair Slaughter mentioned an outside company who could help with this issue.

IX. Public Comment

- a. Almethia Franklin virtually attended from the research team but did not comment.

X. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm.

- a. **Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Commissioner Williams – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**