



State of Illinois  
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

## African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission Full Committee Meeting

Friday, July 19, 2024 at 1:00 pm

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### Meeting Minutes

**I. Call to Order – 1:04 pm**

**II. Roll Call of Commissioners**

Commissioner Algee – Present  
Secretary Elion – Present  
Commissioner Mayers – Present  
Commissioner Moore – Present  
Commissioner Sachnoff – Present  
Chair Slaughter – Present  
Commissioner Williams – Present  
Vice Chair Taylor – Present  
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Present  
Senator Belt – Absent  
Representative Harper – Present  
Commissioner Watson - Present

Quorum was established with 10 members in attendance in person.

**III. Approve Meeting Minutes**

- a. **Motion to approve the June minutes made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Commissioner Sachnoff – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**
- b. **Motion to approve the June minutes made by Secretary Elion, seconded by Commissioner Sachnoff – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

**IV. Chair's Report**

- a. Chair Slaughter congratulated the commission and CMS for July Public Hearing in Chicago success.

**V. Public Engagement and Public Education Subcommittee Chair's Report**

- a. **Promotional Events**
  - i. Secretary Elion mentioned that 6 Promotional Events were attended in late June.
- b. **Campaign Activity Updates**



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- i. PR RFP meetings has continued, and Secretary Elion and Chair Slaughter have been attending them. The RFP is in the final stage of approval and will soon be put out to the vendor community for 2-3 weeks for responses.
  - ii. 6 legislators included the July Public Hearing flyer in their newsletter.
  - iii. WTTW's Chicago Tonight and NBC5 also promoted the July Public Hearing.
  - iv. Near Juneteenth a Press Release by CMS was issued for the July Public Hearing.
- c. **Organizational Outreach**
  - i. DEI Peer to Peer event will be attended by Chair Slaughter and Commissioner Williams and the requested October 15<sup>th</sup> date was confirmed by Coordinator Johnson.
  - ii. Chair Slaughter mentioned upcoming meeting presentations:
    - 1. July Kamm Howard and 2 others will present and Reparations United for Slavery Era Disclosure Bill.
    - 2. He is looking at Dr. Kevin Moore for August who is an economist who works in labor and state/local reparations frameworks.
    - 3. He is hoping Dr. Darity for September.
    - 4. He will outreach to the Chicago Color of Wealth author Dr. Hamilton
  - iii. Chair Slaughter has been outreached by St. Paul Reparations Commission.
  - iv. Chair ADOS Advocacy Foundation conference in October in New Orleans.
  - v. Secretary Elion mentioned discussion was had on how we are working with local efforts like Chicago to continue in this meeting.
- d. **Public Hearings**
  - i. There are currently 387+ citizen registrations, 300 attendees, and 10 legislators. He mentioned 15 registrations per day changed to 50 per day when all commissioners started to outreach.
  - ii. The East St. Louis and Springfield Public Hearings were also discussed in the subcommittee meeting.

**VI. CMS Coordinator Update**

- a. Coordinator Johnson stated sign language person cost \$800 and typically takes 2 months ahead planning. 2 ppl are standard for events of that length.
- b. 9 Slido comments received have been forwarded to ADCRC.
- c. Post hearing emails have been sent to Chair Slaughter and Secretary Elion.
- d. She offered an reminder that the Carbondale, IL room has been paid for.
- e. She asked if there is a speaker or moderator for Strategic Planning Session.
- f. Travel instructions have been sent to ADCRC with travel letters.
- g. The October full ADCRC meeting will be online. CMS will check to see if it can be cancelled.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. **Chicago Public Hearing Debrief**
  - i. Secretary Elion stated there was strong engagement from media, legislators, and citizens despite 2 speaker cancellations. CMS and legislators stepped up to fill the cancellation gap the day of the event. 90



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- 60 day planning cycle gave ample time to plan promotion at events, legislators, and execute media engagement. 10 legislators attended at state and city level from Evanston commission and Chicago. He stated that he has uploaded the video to the shared drive and suggested sending clips of the 3 hour video on social media to drive engagement.
- ii. Chair Slaughter stated that he is compiling input from 20+ emails and comments. He also recommended directing citizens to FAQ's on our website. He emphasized that the bill language stipulates the ADCRC is a lineage based commission.
- iii. Commissioner Watson felt it was great initial event for him and recommended reducing speaker time to create more time for public comment. He also cautioned on speakers delivering message in the community the correct way speaking to the community and not just information. Commissioner Algee agreed with speaker time reduction to create more time for public to speak and message delivery from feedback of her invitees. She added that her summer interns/students came and could not get in because they were not registered so she suggests accommodating walk-ins. She added that over 60 people wanted to speak and the ADCRC would like to hear more. Chair Slaughter mentioned 35 public comments were made of the 44 registered. He stated the ADCRC will coerce speakers to adhere to time limitations. She commends the ADCRC and CMS for a successful event. She suggested reducing 9 community speakers and Commissioner Williams agreed. He stated the education, and the first 3 speakers were critical. He also would like walk ins to be allowed into the event. Director DeVaughn stated she did not see anyone turned away. She suggested more overview of speaker content.
- iv. Commissioner Williams stated that on behalf of Kennedy-King College they would like to commend ADCRC on great partnership through all special requests and challenges. They would like to partner in the future after donating the space this time because they believe in having these types of conversations.
- v. Director DeVaughn commended the DEI interns and Chair Slaughter for hosted the event. She stated she was worried, but is now proud of the event.
- vi. Commissioner Cosey-Lane agreed with reducing speakers and suggested instructing the public to address the issues at hand relevant to the commission. She stated it was a great event.
- vii. Representative Harper stated it was a great event and agreed with shortening time of special speakers to give more time for public comment.
- viii. Chair Slaughter suggested better defining the role of special speakers. He sought a motion for reducing speakers' time. Commissioner Watson suggests allowing the East St. Louis planning committee to speak before changing format.
- ix. Commissioner Mayers commended Chair Slaughter on hosting but suggested adding and prioritizing a timekeeper role for all speakers. He later volunteered to be timekeeper. He added public comments requested reparations solutions and stated some content was redundant. He suggests an ADCRC officer presents the pillars to address the request for plan before the research is available. He reiterated NAACP



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requested having black speakers. Commissioner Williams stated later that others feel that white people should be engaged, in attendance, and speak. He stated it was an excellent event. He added that the public would like an online and in person hybrid event to increase engagement. Chair Slaughter stated there was time to cover the plan and pillars, but aspects were cut from the program because of being behind time. He stated he would like to play up the ADCRC Commissioners' background and expertise. Chair Slaughter stated the ADCRC has been requesting and outreaching speakers very arduously based on public suggestion, but not everyone wanted to speak, travel, or were available.

- x. Coordinator Johnson stated that she had a chime/bell which helped public commentor know time was up and could be helpful for other speakers.
  - xi. Commissioner Algee stated people wanted to know ADCRC member expertise and that Commissioners could speak on issues. She emphasized speaking to audience for who they are. She clarified the expert speakers were not connecting.
  - xii. Commissioner Mayers suggested laptops for commissioners on stage to see powerpoint slides. Director DeVaughn suggested ADCRC bring own computers and the ADCRC does not have extra computers available.
  - xiii. Director DeVaughn stated it is not just our thing because legislators will have to engage beyond our community. Commissioner Algee agreed and added she was intentional about having citizens outside the community speak. Commissioner Watson emphasized non-black allyship must be established from the start and topics must be presented at a 5<sup>th</sup> grade comprehension level.
  - xiv. Representative Harper added there must be clear expectations for meeting beforehand. She emphasized the dual directive to listen to and educate public so they may have to be separated. She stated citizens left without feeling like they had the opportunity to speak in a more balanced event. Director DeVaughn agreed and suggesting asking public for solutions and stating the ADCRC will return for future events.
- b. **East St. Louis**
- i. Vice Chair Taylor state there are 4 confirmed speakers: Tiffany Lee for Racial Terror along with Father Joseph Brown, Greg Carr Enslavement Period, Peggy Louis Lecompte Political Disenfranchisement. East St. Louis High School was chosen to increase youth and local engagement and has been confirmed. Groups like Youth Voice and the Miss IL Juneteenth Royal Court Scholarship Pageant, and NAACP have been engaged to support.
  - ii. Vice Chair Taylor stated public comment will happen after each speaker presentations. Representative Harper agreed with this approach.
  - iii. She stated that she plans to do a hybrid online and in person event.
  - iv. She stated they have made next steps so community can know what the ADCRC and they can do with the information.
  - v. She stated laptops can be made available for commissioners.
  - vi. She stated that better timekeeping will suffice instead of changing speaker number.
  - vii. 8 commissioners indicated they will attend: Commissioners Williams, Moore, Watson, Sachnoff, Mayers, Chair Slaughter, Vice Chair Taylor,



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and Secretary Elion. Commissioners Cosey-Lane and Algee will be attending the Bud Billiken Parade in Chicago on August 10.

- c. **Research Team IGA Progress Report/Status Update**
  - i. Chair Slaughter stated they have been hired and staffed up. He recommended they attend August ADCRC meeting.
- d. **Public Affairs RFP Progress Report/Status Update**
  - i. Assistant Director Williams stated it can be shared publicly and to the commission after posted through the procurement system to the vendor community.
- e. **Springfield Public Hearing**
  - i. **Motion to approve the Southeast High School auditorium in Springfield on October 19, 2024 was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Vice Chair Taylor – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**
- f. **Strategic Planning Session**
  - i. **September 16th**
    - 1. Time (Correct Date is September 20<sup>th</sup>)
    - 2. 1<sup>st</sup> Session Activities – specifically to handle housekeeping
    - 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Activities – business of commission
- g. **ADCRC Mission**
  - i. **Needs to accomplish statutory tasks**
    - 1. Data disaggregation/ ethnic specification
      - a. Chair Slaughter stated that the ADCRC bill statute contains “African American descendant of slavery” specific language but state data and census data does not disaggregate this group from the “black or African American” category. He added it is impossible to recommend actions to ensure equity, equality, and parity for a group that does not exist in data. He later suggested a Data Disaggregation bill is needed to classify or create an ethnic designation under “black or African American” in all data collection in the state to be able to determine who those people are. He suggested the ADCRC to consider the Federal OMB efforts to determine what this data disaggregation might look like in order to keep track of employment opportunities for those black American descendants of chattel slavery.
      - b. Commissioner Williams raised that ADCRC is beholden to the bill language, but focus should be harms done to that stated impacted community. Commissioner Cosey-Lane agreed and stated ADCRC has been consistent and should not change or revisit direction.
      - c. Chair Slaughter suggested having the state to collect data in a disaggregated subcategory specific to the bill language to be able to provide redress to impacted community. Representative Harper and Commissioner Cosey-Lane questioned if and why disaggregation must be done due to complexity and no other group who received reparations needing to. Chair Slaughter stated specificity is needed to withstand legal scrutiny. Commissioner Williams suggested having a larger conversation possibly in subcommittee and volunteered to participate. Chair





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Slaughter suggested covering this in strategic planning session, but no subcommittee will be created at this time.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. Reparations United – Slavery Era Disclosure Bill Presentation**

- i. Kamm Howard, the Executive Director of Reparations United (est. in 2022), thanked the ADCRC and state legislators for the opportunity to present the proposed legislation. He stated the ADCRC's statute 4 pillars. His presentation addressed the fourth and last pillar as legislation suggestion. ArentFox Schiff LLP law firm and Howard University Movement Lawyering Clinic partnered in creating recommended model. The value of this work is \$50,000. He showed a powerpoint presentation with a booklet handout. He stated ILBC members in collaboration are Representative Ammons, Representative Davis, Senator Lightfoot, Representative Buckner, Senator Collins, Senator Peters, Senator Preston, Senator Johnson, Representative Nichols, Senator Belt, Representative du Buclet and Alderman Yancey. He emphasized that other governments have this ordinance, but it is not being enforced. Congresswoman Maxine Waters sent letters to non governmental organizations, but Illinois will be the first state to adopt this legislation. 2014 they went up against Northfolk Southern Railroad but were not successful. They went from \$8B to \$11B 1 month after the state contracted land. Today they are worth over \$57B. Jeff Kennedy and Stella Oyalbu from ArrentFox spoke to avoiding legal challenges, but the toolkit is only a guide. Contributions should not discriminate against groups racially. It should be framed as permission to contract not exclusion. Redress fund will be used to address specific state interest in remedying its legacy from slavery. Outside of that may be more susceptible to legal challenges. Those who suffered should be provided redress in a non-exclusionary way to avoid legal challenge. Non-compliance can result in being excluded by current bid. Curing status should be available by providing or correcting information. Kamm stated ArentFox Schiff has committed to working with State of Illinois in partnership with Reparations United. He concluded with a recommendation for the ADCRC to send the recommendation to ILBC and legislature broad. Kamm Howard stated his prior offices and roles with N'COBRA, NAARC, and working John Conyers on HR40. This recommendation has been shared with California activist, but they are waiting for initial taskforce legislation recommendations to move through the assembly.
- ii. Chair Slaughter stated that in 2002 Chicago passed its Slavery Era Disclosure Ordinance 20 years ago and asked what has stopped advocates to bring this to the state in that time. Kamm stated there is a state legislation that has been brought forward but there was inability to find legislators to take up issue. In 2013 they had a national campaign to get these legislations taken up. The Norfolk Southern fight created interest then with Dr. Wilson working with Alderman Sawyer to get the reparations subcommittee started in 2020. We met with the subcommittee "and they assured us after that meeting that they would enforce the legislation, they would provide the s the public with reports that they would make sure that what had been reported in the past, we



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had access to it. They would make sure that there was a website, a link on home City's website. None of that was done." This legislation allows citizens to bring forth compliance issues to activate disclosure activities like Oakland. Chicago did not have that. He stated no studies have been done on negative externalities on private business but the goal is not to punish. This is an invitation to be a good corporate citizen with brand and profit benefits.

- iii. Commissioner Watson asked for recommended next steps. Kamm stated several states have this on the books including Massachusetts, but they are not being enforced. He recommended administrated guidelines be created next by the ADCRC or state resulting in complicit actors redressing impacted communities. He stated that the long term goal was to create a steady stream of resources towards repair of our communities from every actor who has been implicit in the harm and injury to us. They should be mandated to assist in the repair.
- iv. Representative Harper thanked Kamm for presence and asked him to state his involvement in the creation of the ADCRC. He mentioned that in 2019 when businessman, Willie Wilson was running for mayor he saw the 2016 debate address reparations as a result of ADOS. He then brought Alderman Sawyer, State Representative Will Davis, and State Senator Mattie Hunter together and proposed to them to craft reparations legislation. Commissioner Boykins drafted the legislation and we went to the meeting indicating we could not support it as it was drafted. Dr. Wilson suggested we revie it. We brought on Dr. Conrad Worrill, then he, myself, and Commission Boykins crafted the legislation in 16 initiatives both for city and state levels for the same legislation. One was introduced to the city and the other to the state level. Each of the 16 initiatives were within the UN international standard for reparations with its 5 components:
  - 1. Cessation and Guarantees of Non-Repetition
  - 2. Restitution
  - 3. Compensation
  - 4. Satisfaction
  - 5. Rehabilitation

The state legislature chose 4 of the 16 and submitted it to the black caucus and that is the legislation that established this commission.

- v. Kamm stated he will leave that to legislators (like ADCRC legislators) to determine who should enforce this legislation as it is not his expertise. He said it could possibly be the Attorney General like in California. He said the legal department, the treasury, or a combination of agencies could participate in ensuring that the resources are brought in and distributed in the best possible manner.
- vi. Kamm stated he will provide the 16 initiatives in 5 areas. Representative Harper stated the list of 4 is long enough and are gigantic things, but the ADCRC can continue to work on other 12 initiatives as there is no end date for the ADCRC.

### IX. Public Comment

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> public commentor thanked ADCRC for ensured this is a lineage based commission. 3 Reparations areas designation: designation, protection, and



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compensation. He stated we are already designated as Freedmen at emancipation and there should be a Freedmen Affairs office, legislative caucus, and committees. He stated we are moving past Pan-Africanism because Africans participated in slave-trade, did not fight to stop slavery, and he is unaware any diplomacy or fight to free freedmen.

- b. Freedmen language is severing claims because its race based. Full restitution should be made for descendants of chattel slavery. Black American Negro Freedman rejects legislators using ruling party language that will fail legal challenge.
- c. Mrs. Slaughter stated a lot of the community had questions or concerns about information that was already shared via website. Handouts would be helpful in sharing this information at the Public Hearings. She enjoyed the education and research because it was not taught in school. She emphasized considering the entire audience not just local audience. She stated everyone including white speaker should be present because this is everyone's problem. Security is a also a concern with walk ins.
- d. Kamm Howard stated the title was strategically selected in anticipating legal challenge and can defeat them. 3 international terms delineate groups, but this name Afro-descendants are people who were robbed from the continent, subjected to a system of slavery and a system of apartheid called Jim Crow. The name inherently specifies lineage of a harmed people deserving of redress and nobody else. This name will defeat legal challenges, but additional definitions can be added in the redress recommendations.
- e. Iris virtually expressed thanks and concern about presentation along with some ADCRC statements. She is concerned with generic usage of "slavery" and "African-Descent" language as they are not specific. She stated black Americans are not applicable for CARECOM. She added race based policy is not constitutional, but other group take harm based programs as was done post George Floyd.
- f. Terrance Taylor from East St. Louis stated the great platform for the youth and they do not understand what reparations are so more ambassadors are needed. He added the classification of African American descendants of slavery has already been established via "Negro" or "African American" on birth certificates.

**X. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 pm.**

- a. **Motion to adjourn made by Chair Slaughter, seconded by Commissioner Cosey-Lane – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**