



**State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission**

**African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission
Full Committee Meeting**

Friday, June 21, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order – 1:05 pm

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Commissioner Algee - Absent
Secretary Elion – Present
Commissioner Mayers – Present 1:33 pm
Commissioner Moore – Absent
Commissioner Sachnoff - Present
Chair Slaughter – Present
Commissioner Williams – Present
Vice Chair Taylor – Absent
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Present Virtually
Senator Belt – Absent
Representative Harper - Absent

Quorum was not established with 5 members in attendance in person.

III. Reparation Education Project (Nkechi Taifa)

- a. She is the Executive Director of the Reparations Education Project and shared a powerpoint presentation including a reparations criteria with criteria of: apology, recognition of impact, redress, cessation, rehabilitation, etc. She stepped through a brief cursory history of reparations in the US pre-2020 and post-2020 including over 100 local jurisdictions. She also shared a timeline of events, stakeholder group mapping, and a word cloud. She provided the following suggestions based on conversations with Dr. Sherryl Grills from the California Taskforce:
 - i. Provide ample resources to support and empower the taskforce to do the tasks well. California had 12 DOJ staff, 20 lawyers, researchers, and public relations.
 - ii. Be alert to local political actions: California had the Bagley-Keen act that required business to be done in public.
 - iii. Perform robust community engagement programs with a communications strategy to manage narrative and educate the public.



State of Illinois African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

- iv. Insist on principled engagement in the reparations discourse. Disallow character assassinations within commission and in the community.
 - v. Pay attention to building a strong ally base like referenced in stakeholder group slide.
 - vi. Give ample time to important topics like eligibility. California sped through the topic.
- b. She stated that HR40 is still in limbo and the center of advocacy has moved to encouraging President Biden to establish a federal commission by executive order. There are more co-sponsors than ever for HR40 in 200+. She mentioned that momentum is “bubbling up” at the local level which pushed the federal effort forward. Multifaceted harms must be addressed with a multifaceted solution.
- c. She recommended the historic record and economic harm be a part of the narrative Illinois builds. Expounding on details beyond the slavery era will show the overlap between historic record and economic harms such as Red Summer, Police Torture, and Redlining.
- d. She stated there’s no prescriptive way to coordinate local, state, and federal efforts because they can all help each other build.

IV. Commission on Equity & Inclusion 2023 Report

- a. Bruce Montgomery from the State of Illinois Commission on Equity & Inclusion (CEI) presented on their work. He started with their mission and goals. He stated relevant legislation that has expanded and supported diversity, equity, and inclusion. He explained the origin of CEI and the difference between them and BEP. BEP was moved from CMS to CEI. Their headcount is 32 people. They also hold open meetings and he extended an invitation to the ADCRC and citizens. He mentioned that the agency is struggling with the alignment of all of the disparate programs and CEI is focused to ensure coordination across programs. He mentioned the agency budget enables prompt payment programs that help vendor partnerships. He stated the target for all contracts is 30% having a opportunity to work with BEP vendor. \$1 to \$2B up to \$4B which is only 7% of total vendor spend. His agency does not have analytics capability and other beneficial staffing. He stepped through some specific directives. He stated that some contractor bypass requirements and the agency is tasked with correcting this being done. He listed several partnerships they participate in to develop business relationships. He offered data of contract disparities and major vendor contracts list to the ADCRC. He added the state certification program is free with fast-tracking of other certifications to create the largest database of vendors. He mentioned escalations can be taken to enforce measurements of the state. He recommended:
 - i. Keep Innovating to Expand the Vendor Pool
 - ii. Be an Advocate and Role Model of Best Practices in Inclusive Contracting
 - iii. Build Community via Trusted Relationships Throughout the Public/Private Ecosystem



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

- b. Keeping outside relationships is important to navigating the state of Illinois bureaucracy and bringing those outside partners into state partnerships. He added that sole proprietor diversity numbers are different than multiple employee organizations.
- c. He quoted the US Illinois department of advocacy referencing 90% of black businesses do not have employees.
- d. He added that Obama Center will have 50-60% BEP participation.
- e. He recommended not getting too in the weeds on black business ethnic disaggregation because African American data alone is dramatically low and compelling.
- f. There are things we can do on the road to reparations. How to move AA business numbers up from a low percentage number. Demanding transparency of data and more frequent BEP data from state agencies procurement goals, spending progress, data transparency frequency. Some agencies numbers look like the disparities look like decades of the past.
- g. Director DeVaughn added that large numbers may consist of areas and large spend may be in areas like benefits where there may not be opportunities for BEP spending. She agreed that more frequent tracking would be beneficial towards achieving goals. She also supports the buying plan and referenced the city of Chicago's buying plan.
- h. Commissioner Montgomery mentioned the city and the state is taking good steps to combine partnerships with groups of sole proprietors, especially with most of them being virtual consultants. He added that black women have been the fastest group of startups and revenue generation.

V. May 2024 Minutes – not covered

VI. Chair's Report

- a. Chair Slaughter started by celebrating Commissioner Williams recently receiving his doctorate.

VII. Public Engagement and Public Education Subcommittee Chair's Report

a. Promotional Events

- i. SEIU State Council Meeting Saturday June 15
- ii. Chicago Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony Monday June 17
- iii. Du Sable Museum Juneteenth Event on June 19
- iv. SEIU Juneteenth Event at Du Sable Museum on Saturday, June 22
- v. Chair Slaughter invited to speak at Conrad Worrill Community Reparations Townhall Event Saturday, June 29 at Trinity UCC 11am-1pm

b. Campaign Activity Updates

- i. PR RFP have continued, and Secretary Elion and Chair Slaughter have been attending them. The RFP is in the final stages of approval and will be put out to the vendor community for 2-3 weeks for responses.
- ii. Legislators have included the July Public Hearing flyer in their newsletter.
- iii. WTTW's Chicago Tonight and NBC5 also promoted the July Public Hearing.



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

- iv. Near Juneteenth a Press Release was issued for the July Public Hearing.
- v. There are currently 100+ citizen registrations.
- c. **Public Hearings**
 - i. Secretary Elion presented community speakers for the Chicago Public Hearing and run of show in the subcommittee meeting.
 - ii. The ESL and Springfield Public Hearings were also discussed in the subcommittee meeting.

VIII. CMS Coordinator Update

- a. Coordinator Johnson stated that a videographer is secured. Tablecloths are visible in the back of today's meeting room. A runner has been ordered to place over the podium. A sign language translator has been requested. Flyers have been printed along with other day of material. Two flags will also be present.
- b. The ADCRC explainer video is on website.
- c. The FAQ's are on the website too.
- d. She also showed the banners.
- e. She showed the program, too.

IX. Old Business

a. Public Hearing Planning

i. Chicago

1. Registered Public Comment/Expert Speaker Update

- Change in expert speakers have been made due to unavailability of on previously set speaker.
- Coordinator Johnson suggested that Slido could be used for public comment. A possible use would be to have a time frame for public comment that amoderator can read from Slido submission to help with the timing.

2. Organizational Outreach

ii. East St. Louis – not covered as Vice Chair Taylor was absent

1. Registered Public Comment/Expert Speaker Update

b. Research Team IGA Progress Report/Status Update

- i. Chair Slaughter informed that signatures are being executed to start work on July 1.
- c. **Public Affairs RFP Progress Report/Status Update – covered in Subcommittee Chair's Report**
- d. **Strategic Planning Session**
 - i. **Planning Committee**
 - 1. Commissioner Sachnoff, Williams, and Mayers volunteered for the planning committee.

X. New Business

a. ADCRC Mission – not covered

- i. Chair Slaughter briefly stated that ADCRC needs to accomplish statutory tasks.



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

XI. Public Comment

- a. Miranda Alexdria (virtual) of N'Cobra Chicago requested flyers to distribute for Chicago Public Hearing.
- b. La Kisha Latham asked if reparations leaders will be engaged in planning event. Chair Slaughter mentioned we have an online submission for ADCRC suggestions but the strategic planning session will be planned by the commissioners.
- c. Darrell Heard of N'Cobra stated they are ready to work and are requesting more information.
- d. Eve Angel aka Momma D stated Indigenous Native Americans have received sovereign rights and land, but indigenous African Americans have not and need the same. In 1967 the Kerner Report was the 1st step, but the language changed to minority. 2009 US Congress apologized for slavery and segregations laws, but there were no reparations. 2015 the Arc of the Returned was unveiled by UN in New York. Disproportionate arrests of black boys started in 2015-2019, but politicians have been silent. Black people need their own disaggregated categories for descendants of chattel slavery like the Governor did for middle eastern people.
- e. Joyce Scott would like know if the commission is engaging at the ward level where it would be easier to distribute information because citizens are there. People in her network are getting information from ward offices.
- f. Robert McKay stated this reparations process is an ambiguously slow process. Conyers introduced this 30 years ago. There was slavery in Illinois and that history should be in the classrooms. The state is not compliant with that statute to teach the history in the classrooms. There is a slave breeding house in Gallatin County, IL. This information is being suppressed in classroom.

XII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM.