



African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order – 1:07 pm

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Commissioner Algee - Absent
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 Virtually
Senator Belt – Absent
Representative Harper - Absent

Quorum was established with 7 members in attendance in person.

III. Osiris Professional Services: Reparations Toolkit

- a. Nick Cummings former city of Evanston presented to the ADCRC the Legislative Toolkit. He mentioned that state legislation is the incubator for federal policy. He also shared the UN definition of reparations and historical national reparations examples since the year 2000. He also covered relevant case law and a legislative framework including: harm report, developing a reparations program, identifying a funding source, and introducing legislation. He noted the following common pitfalls: not knowing where to start due to focusing on who was harmed and how are we going to pay for it rather than focusing on the just the harm aspect. His final recommendation was creating consistent systematic support for the commissions. Sommer suggested narrowing the scope at start and continuous mechanisms of support systemically and funding wise by legislators to enable the work of the commission.
- b. Sommer Iqbal, masters of public policy candidate at UC Berkely, presented to the ADCRC the Asheville and Buncombe County, NC case study and funding sources. Their desire is generational systemic repair that cannot be legislated



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away. The funding came from city owned land and general fund budget \$500,000 annual appropriation. The county also made annual \$500,000 annual appropriation. They have recommended policies like economic development center, guaranteed income pilot, and grant programs for historically black neighborhoods. They are sunsetting in June after 4 years without government structures in place to continue. Another criticism was that too much spending went to consultants and project management. She presented her findings on 23 funding sources summarizing that government should work with impacted community to determine best one. Public support for cash payments has grown from 15% in 2000 to 30% in 2023.

- c. Nick stated that there has not been a direct reparations case to date. The cases shared are just race based cases. The supreme court takes a fact-based look at remedy stating only congress can address private harm and the 14th amendment. State and local governments can only address harms done by themselves.
- d. Nick stated reparations education is a sales job as legally you may not be entitled to repair, but legislatively it can happen. Evanston's repair included descendants of those harms.
- e. Nick also stated that 2020 civil unrest contributed to the doubling since 2000, but the support of using tax dollars has not increased. Sommer stated that reparations ventures provided the growth statistics which was attributed continual discourse on injustices, organizing, youth along with stronger public support by Democratic Party.
- f. Nick mentioned that lineage-based argument would come down to national origin and the impacted community is very mixed including enslaved and their owners.

IV. April 2024 Minutes

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

V. Chair's Report

- a. Research subcommittee meeting included proposal from Cordell Longstreath to collect narratives of descendants of enslaved persons. They would like email promotion from ADCRC to collect 10-12 narratives per month. He spoke on cross promotion. Chair Slaughter will share a signup google form.
- b. Economist Damon Jones of U of C public policy will be reaching out to Marcus Casey of UIC to figure out quantitative analysis. They have requested a more specific scope of work which could be great to discuss during the strategic planning meeting.

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

- a. **Promotional Events**
 - i. Chair Slaughter invited to speak at Conrad Worrill Community Reparations Townhall Event June 29 at Trinity UCC 11am-1pm.
 - ii. Chair Slaughter attended the Illinois Reparations Coalition event containing EAT, Oak Park Reparations, Black Roots Alliance. They will come present plans for DNC to the ADCRC.
- b. **Campaign Activity Updates**



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- i. PR RFP meetings have continued, and Secretary Elion and Chair Slaughter have been attending them.
 - ii. Chair Slaughter also presented the newsletter that has been emailed to full ADCRC list of 500+ recipients.
 - iii. The ADCRC will begin leveraging 5 legislator email lists to promote ADCRC events like the Chicago Public Hearing.
- c. **Public Hearings**
- i. Secretary Elion mentioned planning community speakers for the Chicago Public Hearing run of show.
 - ii. The East St. Louis and Springfield public hearing planning has begun.

VII. CMS CoorParliamentarian Ninfotor Update

- a. Reminder to complete mandatory ethics training due June 1.
- b. She attended Urban League Policy summit which used QR Code Slido which facilitated live Q & A. They also had QR codes to speaker bios.
- c. The July Chicago Public Hearing has 16 registrants.

VIII. Old Business

a. **Public Hearing Planning**

i. **Chicago**

1. **Speakers – Secretary Elion made a motion to approve the speaker list that the Public Engagement Subcommittee presented to the full Commission with the amendment from Chair Slaughter to include Crista E. Noel from Women’s All Points Bulletin to speak on the topic of Political Disenfranchisement and a backup of Miranda Alexandria the co-chair of Chicago N’COBRA on the topic of Racial Terror or Political Disenfranchisement – Seconded by Commissioner Mayers – all voted in favor – none opposed – none abstained – Motion passes.**
2. **Registered Public Comment** - The ADCRC will need volunteers to help work this table and process.
3. **Run of Show –** The Run of Show document was presented by Secretary Elion with discussion and some assignments of specific tasks were given to commissioners.
 - The FAQ will serve to answer commonly asked questions and to be referred to during the hearing.
4. **Organizational Outreach**
 - Secretary Elion presented the Public Hearing Planning spreadsheet that now has 75 organizations which includes the legislative offices that have partnered with the Commission.
 - Spreadsheet has been updated and now is the time to



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start reaching out to those organizations about the July public hearing.

ii. **East St. Louis**

1. Speakers Confirmations

- Vice Chair Taylor mentioned that she is still searching for an Enslavement Period. She Father Joseph Brown again awaiting response. She mentioned Peggy Lewis-Macant who has an extensive background for the Political Disenfranchisement topic has confirmed.

2. Venue Confirmation

- **Motion by Secretary Elion to have the St. Louis public hearing taking place on August 10th at East. St. Louis high school – Seconded by Commissioner Williams – all voted in favor – none opposed – none abstained – Motion passes.**

b. **Research Team IGA Progress Report/Status Update**

- i. Chair Slaughter has received redlines back on track for July 1 start date.

c. **Public Affairs RFP Progress Report/Status Update – covered in Sub chair report**

d. **By-Laws Motion by Vice Chair Taylor**

- i. Vice Chair Taylor requested defining Vice Chair role will help with implementation of ADCRC plans.
- ii. Chair Slaughter stated that his is not the only voice of the ADCRC suggesting change of language to broaden collaboration.
- iii. He also suggested subcommittees should not be expanded for now until harms report is created. Vice Chair Taylor stated the language can be changed but the focus should be made on this items listed. Chair Slaughter offered that this could be discussed in the strategic planning session.
- iv. **Motion by Commissioner Williams to adopt the proposed amendment to the Rules by Vice Chair Taylor after the amendments from Chair Slaughter on the Chair Role – Seconded by Commissioner Sachnoff – all voted in favor – none against – none abstained – Motion passes.**

IX. **New Business**

a. **Strategic Planning Session**

- i. Chair Slaughter requested dates to explore commissioner backgrounds. Commissioner Mayers stated he would like to have a full day facilitated by someone else with a goal of working better as a team. He could see them attending one of our meetings. Commissioner Williams prefers it be in person. Secretary Elion confirmed that portions of the meeting will be for team building, exploring backgrounds, and doing ADCRC work. Parliamentarian Ninfo stated it has to be open to the public physically and virtually. Commissioner Mayers stated he would also like to have a



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portion of the day to debrief on public hearings. September was suggested by Vice Chair Taylor and agreed on by Chair Slaughter and Commissioner Mayers. Commissioner Sachnoff prefers weekday. Chair Slaughter suggested adding it to the standing ADCRC September meeting and doing 2 hours of team building and 2 hours of strategic planning, then 90 minutes for regular meeting. Secretary Elion suggested November. Chair Slaughter would like to avoid having the research team onboarded for several months without providing input from the Strategic Planning Session. He suggested 10a-3p in Chicago at Illinois building and room with lunch from 12p-1p. Parliamentarian Ninfo suggested separating agendas on website. Chair Slaughter stated that the meeting would be from 2-3p. He also suggested advertising it to the public to inform them of our professional acumen. Parliamentarian Ninfo suggested having the rooms available.

- ii. **Motion to approve the Strategic Planning Session schedule made by Commissioner Mayers – Seconded by Commission Sachnoff – Chair Slaughter, Vice Chair Taylor, Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Sachnoff, Commissioner Mayers, Commissioner Moore all voted in favor – none opposed – Secretary Elion abstained**

- b. **Policy Recommendations from the Public** - Tabled until the next meeting

X. Public Comment

- a. 3 Citizens in room and 5 virtual

i. In Person

- Bill Crosby – gave comment
- Robert McKay – gave comment
- Joe Citizen – gave comment

ii. Virtual

- Cordell Longstreath – gave comment about changing up locations for Commission meetings
 - Miranda Alexandria
 - Lamel Washington – gave comment
 - Rhea Rucker
 - Shannon Wilson
 - Sommer Iqbal – part of earlier presentation and left before public comment
- b. Will Crosby is insulted by not being responded to by appointments office. He questioned the expert's familiarity with reparations. He stated reparations came out of grassroots efforts. He has sued the state for gerrymandering, the RTA, and CTA for black passengers. He lived in Cairo, IL where they caught slaves and send them back to south. He has been doing reparations work for 50 years and on social media with 3000 followers for 13 years. He stated that the governor worked against the activist community.



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- c. Vice Chair Taylor stated the need for focused attention on measurable goals. ADCRC are not experts but are bridge builders. She added that there are ways for the public to get involved.
- d. Cordell Longstreath suggests having rotating locations within locales at community organizations such as libraries. Teamworking in Inglewood could be a possible partner. Having meetings in current location is an obstacle for interested citizens.
- e. Robert McKay is a Chicago citizen, SIU Carbondale alum and veteran. He stated that the ADCRC is moving at a snails paced compared to disasters response receiving millions. Calle House was imprisoned \$68M received by government for taxes. Chicagoans have petitioned for corporations to do slavery era disclosure. The government is benefiting, but the people who were brought here and built the country have not benefited. He applied a month ago to the ADCRC and have not heard a response. The chairs in this room are empty and the Chicago reparations commission should be present. John Conyers work should be continued.
- f. Joe Citizen was invited by Robert McKay and William Crosby. He imagines reparations on a scale from white remorse to getting the bag. Feasibility is the first goal. Can you get the bag? What is the cost of time and guarantee? Pensions should be focused on like Calle House put in place. Police accountability could be addressed by congress.

XI. Adjournment

- **A Motion to Adjourn was made by Commissioner Sachnoff, seconded by Commissioner Mayers, all voted in favor – motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.**