



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

**African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission
Full Committee Meeting
Friday, July 18, 2025 at 1:00 pm**

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order – 1:15 pm

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Commissioner Algee – Absent
Secretary Elion – Present
Commissioner Jones – Present
Commissioner Mayers – Present
Commissioner Moore – Present at 1:20 pm
Commissioner Sachnoff – Absent
Chair Slaughter – Present
Commissioner Phelon – Present
Commissioner Williams – Present
Vice Chair Taylor – Absent
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Present at 1:25 pm
Representative Harper – Absent
Commissioner Trask – Present
Commissioner Watson – Present
Representative Weber – Absent

Quorum was established with 10 members in attendance in person.

III. Approve Meeting Minutes (Quorum Required)

- a. Motion to approve the June Full Commission Meeting minutes made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Williams – all voted in favor – Motion passed.

IV. Community Presentation: Breaking the Chains: Reclaiming Wealth, Power, and Dignity for Black Men with Dr Clinton Boyd

- a. Dr. Boyd has ties to Dr. William Darity and has served on some boards with Chair Slaughter. He presented PowerPoint slides on his organization co-lead with Equity And Transformation (E.A.T.). The mission of Fathers, Families, and Healthy Communities is to provide transformative services to Black fathers to improve their quality of life. They do not exclude children and co-parents, but they do address systemic targeting of black men by policies. There was only 53% labor force participation for black men in Illinois with a 55% jobless rate for



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Black men ages 20-24 in Chicago in 2021. The state of Illinois was worst amongst others in the nation. The study aimed to tell the story of the black men behind these statistics with an interview group population of 172. Peer led focus groups were used to conduct qualitative research with culturally grounded facilitation. The report highlights the legacy of enslavement, Jim Crow and The Great Migration, De-industrialization, and Mass Incarceration. Their key findings were that black men are currently experiencing systemic roadblocks, workforce inequities, institutional betrayal, and emotional/relational tolls. They found strengths in the black men relating to entrepreneurship, informal economies, and participating in black men going from mentorship to mastery. A blueprint for transformation has been developed with 8 areas of focus which is included in the report. Some major recommendations were:

- i. Build Wealth, Not Just Wages
- ii. Fund Prevention, Not Punishment
- iii. Invest in Fathers
- iv. Train for the Jobs of the Future
- v. Make Education a Right, not a privilege
- vi. Build Black-owned businesses
- vii. Give second chances that matter
- viii. Center Community Wisdom

He also distributed paper reports in the Chicago location to the ADCRC commissioners.

- b. They are working with a consultant organization to develop specific policy recommendation and would look forward to partnering with members of the ADCRC.
- c. Chair Slaughter will disseminate Dr. Boyd's contact info and the digital report to the ADCRC.
- d. Commissioner Williams voiced his appreciation for the presentation and looks forward to similar presentations.

V. Chair's Report (not covered)

VI. Public Engagement & Education Subcommittee Chair's Report

- a. Last week Secretary Elion, Chair Slaughter, and CMS had its introductory meeting with Rise Strategy Group. He shared the past events, future event plans, and website/email list resources with them. They discussed the prioritized list of outreach activities in the described in the RFP that were ranked by the Public Engagement Subcommittee.

VII. Rise Strategy Group

- a. Keira Ellis Vice President of Rise Strategy Group presented a PowerPoint deck on their capabilities. She was Deputy Press Secretary for Mayor Rham Emmanuel, Senator Tammy Duckworth & Representative Lisa Hernandez. She has worked across the state of Illinois. Darlene Hill the Executive Vice President of Communications at Rise spent 25 years as reporter for Fox News Chicago building many media relationships across the city. Their strength is diverse groups with coverage across Illinois. The founder of Rise, Tara Cooper Wright was Rham Emmanuel's Press Secretary for 5 years. They have many former reporters at the company with expertise in storytelling with in-house bilingual (Spanish) capabilities. They also have expertise in social med and crisis management. They showed a list of relevant clients to the ADCRC's work



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- (i.e. Cook County Land Bank, National Urban League, Chicago DNC, Hope Chicago, City of Chicago Park District, etc).
- b. Program Manager Johnson added that bi-weekly meetings will be held between her and Rise Strategy Group and plans will be presented to the full commission for direction and feedback.

VIII. CMS Program Manager Updates

- a. Program Manager Johnson mentioned Deputy Director Dixon will be leaving CMS and will no longer lead the legislative working group. Commissioner Trask will provide updates Representative Harper's Slavery Era Disclosure Bill. Commissioner Phelon asked for guidelines from CMS on policy questions. Parliamentarian Ninfo and Steven Booth will assist with providing bullet points guidelines and be available to answer questions. No formal meetings have been held. Commissioner Trask would like to participate in the working group.

IX. Old Business

- a. Champaign-Urbana Public Hearing Planning (Quorum Required)
- i. Date and location
 1. **Motion by Commissioner Trask to approve the date and location, seconded by Secretary Elion, all in favor, none opposed, none abstained – MOTION PASSES**
 - ii. Expert Speakers Approval
 1. Commissioner Trask submitted the following list to Chair Slaughter and Program Manager Johnson
 - a. Pastor Terrance Thomas who has an African studies background and is well known and respected in the community.
 - b. State Representative Carol Ammons
 - c. Dr. Sundiata Cha-Jua who is a Sociology Professor of African American Studies at the University of Illinois
 - d. Dr. Larry Neal Professor Emeritus was recommended by Chair Slaughter
 - i. Chair Slaughter will reach out to Dr. Neal for availability and interest.
 2. Program will present the expert speakers to Rise by Tuesday 7/18.
Motion to approve the expert speakers by Commissioner Trask, seconded by Commissioner Jones, All in favor, none opposed, none abstained – MOTION PASSES
 - iii. Community Speaker Approval
 1. Commission Trask JT submitted a list to Chair Slaughter and Program Manager Johnson
 - a. Cook Clerk Aaron Ammons
 - b. Pastor Renee Antrosio
 - c. Dr. LaKisha David
 - d. Naomi Simmons-Thorne
 2. The new mayor will be outreached by Commissioner Trask to provide the welcome.



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Motion to approve the expert speakers by Commissioner Trask, seconded by Commissioner Jones, All in favor, none opposed, none abstained – MOTION PASSES

- b. Framework for Preliminary Recommendations (Quorum Required)
 - 1. Secretary Elion continued the discussion on the framework he presented for preliminary recommendations aligning 1 reparative program to each of the 11 harms areas. Discussion took place where Chair Slaughter and Commissioner Jones suggested committing to a framework after reading the harms report. Chair Slaughter added that the harms report should be available for commissioners to review August 25. Secretary Elion stated the need to avoid too many policy recommendations like California's 200+ by agreeing on the number of recommendations soon and requested assigning upcoming meetings to approve the recommendations framework and eligibility criteria. Commissioners Williams and Trask supported approving the number of recommendations in the September meeting. Secretary Elion stated the advantage of having a framework to announce at the October Public Hearing to move the public conversation into the Harms Report and Policy Recommendations phase. Chair Slaughter agreed and added that preliminary Harms Report recommendations could be discussed as soon as October, with a deep dive into the Harms Report's 5 focus areas in November, and 6 in December.
 - 2. Commissioner Williams, Cosey-Lane, Trask, Watson, Phelon, and Moore requested a full hard copy of harms report draft and CMS will provide.
 - 3. Chair Slaughter emphasized not sharing hard or digital copies.
 - 4. Secretary Elion clarified that the PR Firm will be providing a plan for publicizing the harms report.

X. New Business

- a. Chair Slaughter announced that Dr. Pamela Denise Long will present a revenue neutral reparations framework and plan for the August ADCRC meeting.
- b. Commissioner Trask is working with Steve Wilson to educate middle school students on reparations and solicited input from commissioners.

XI. Public Comment

- a. 2 citizens attended in person and there were 3 virtual attendees.
- b. Ernest Russell requested American Descendants Of Slavery language for policy recommendations. He is looking forward to framework recommendations and commends the commission for looking at a bold and feasible number of recommendations knowing the politicians may only act on 20 out of 200. He also is looking forward to the ADCRC's specific recommendations. He likes the ADCRC's acknowledgment of pitfalls of other task forces.



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- c. Nette expressed appreciation of ADCRC's work and presenter. She agrees that learning from mistakes of past commissions is important. She suggested intentional policy to repair intentional system harms.
- d. The in-person attendee thanked ADCRC's hard work and emphasized that the recommendations be for descendants of Freedmen. He mentioned some repair occurred through the reconstruction period from special order 15. He asked who would ensure these harms are corrected and that the people who apply for services will get the impact. He requested an Office of Freedman Affairs for the state of Illinois. He stated he would like his children to see reparations if it is not in his lifetime.

XII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 pm.

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