



State of Illinois  
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

**African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission  
Full Committee Meeting  
Friday, June 20, 2025 at 1:00 pm**

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**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order – 1:04 pm**

**II. Roll Call of Commissioners**

Commissioner Algee – Absent  
Secretary Elion – Present  
Commissioner Jones – Present  
Commissioner Mayers – Present at 2:30 pm  
Commissioner Moore – Absent  
Commissioner Sachnoff – Absent  
Chair Slaughter – Present  
Commissioner Phelon – Absent  
Commissioner Williams – Present  
Vice Chair Taylor – Present  
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Absent  
Representative Harper – Present  
Commissioner Trask – Present  
Commissioner Watson – Present  
Representative Weber – Absent

Quorum was established with 9 members in attendance in person.

**III. Approve Meeting Minutes (Quorum Required)**

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

**IV. Community Presentation: Vocational Training from Training to Journeymen**

- a. Not covered

**V. Chair's Report**

- a. Chair Slaughter made a celebratory statement of Juneteenth and the historic role that Illinois played by sending the 29<sup>th</sup> Colored Infantry south. He also mentioned Grace Wisner's role in creating the American flag.



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**VI. Public Engagement & Education Subcommittee Chair's**

**Report**<https://library.iterable.com/3110/20487/f60ae6485c9449d2a76a3eb3db21d1eb-frame-31613004-1.png>

- a. Secretary Elion stated that the ILBCF has started planning their fall policy summit and the ADCRC should plan to share our progress during the summit.

**VII. CMS Program Manager Updates**

- a. Program Manager Johnson mentioned pending public hearing venues in several cities and the need for a public hearing calendar. Chair Slaughter mentioned additional cities and their dates are deferred.

**VIII. Old Business**

- a. Juneteenth Events Report-out
  - i. Commissioner Williams acknowledged the growth of the Federal celebration and events. His 1619 performances were held around the Chicagoland, including Du Sable Museum, Lockport where Congresswoman Underwood attended, and in Hazel Crest during the evening. He emphasized the opportunity to educate the public for liberation.
  - ii. Chair Slaughter attended Commissioner Algee's SEIU event on June 14 where he spoke and met with Senators Peters and Collins. The public is waiting for the harms report and recommendations with members of the public volunteering to assist. He added historical context for the holiday and the role government plays in enforcing policy.
- b. Research Team Updates
  - i. Chair Slaughter is waiting for research team to send the link for the draft report. He proposed dividing sections amongst commissioners. The research team has combined some areas. Commissioners volunteered for chapters and he will send out those assignments.

- Enslavement – Elion
- Racial Terror - Elion
- Political Disenfranchisement – Williams/Watson
- Housing – Representative Harper
- Education – Williams/Slaughter
- Family/environmental - Trask
- Economic – Stolen Labor – Hindered Opportunities - Watson
- Unjust Legal System - Taylor
- Health Harms – Jones/Elion
- Wealth Gap – Slaughter/Watson

- ii. Expert testimonials will also be distributed, but optional for reviewing. August 25 is the expected date for the initial draft.
- c. Public Affairs RFP Process Report/Status Update
  - i. Program Manager Johnson and Assistant Director Williams updated that the contract has been executed, but the state is looking to obtain an IRS document for payment processing with hopes to kickoff July 1. Chair Slaughter proposed scheduling 30 minutes for the Rise Strategy Group



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to present in July meeting. Program Manager Johnson will share priorities developed by the Public Engagement subcommittee, public hearing content, and possibly the harms report if it is available.

## IX. New Business

### a. Champaign-Urbana Public Hearing Planning (Quorum Required)

#### i. Topics Approval

1. Chair Slaughter suggested keeping same topics as the prior 2 public hearings for parity sake. Secretary Elion suggested covering the next 4 topics to complete topic coverage and give the flexibility to move on to recommendations after the harms report is released. Chair Slaughter suggested 5 minute expert videos in subsequent public hearings. Commissioner Trask agreed with moving forward to next 4 topics. Vice Chair Taylor stated that movement and productivity is important and agreed with moving forward with topics.
2. **Motion to cover final 4 topics in Champaign-Urbana Public Hearing made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Williams – all voted in favor, Chair Slaughter abstained – Motion passed.**

#### ii. Location/Date Approval

1. Commissioner Trask shared that a free location at University of Illinois is available on September 20, but there is a Black Mental Health event on the same date. The other option is to move the public hearing to October on a non-football game date. The event Black Mental Health event will be at a different venue, but there will be common interested citizens. Chair Slaughter stated the harms report is planned for December or January and suggested finishing harm topic areas. Commissioner Trask suggested keeping the same date due to planning synergy. Commissioner Williams stated the priority being turnout and not wanting to jeopardize that by competing with an event. Secretary agreed with turnout prioritization, but added the suggestion of attending the Black Mental Health event to promote the public hearing in October and build partnerships. Commissioner Trask stated any date besides October 11 due to a home football game would work. Commissioner Trask suggested October 18 as a primary date and October 4 as the secondary date.
2. **Motion to host the Champaign-Urbana Public Hearing on October 18 as a primary date and October 4 as secondary date was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Secretary Elion – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

#### iii. Speakers Approval

1. Commission Trask listed several potential expert speakers: Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua, Representative Carol Ammons, and Ruby Mendenhall on the topic of Mental and Physical Harm and Neglect.
2. Chair Slaughter suggest Larry Neal who is an Economic Professor from the area for the Wealth Gap topic.



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3. Secretary Elion stated the ADCRC is on promotional schedule to approve experts in July and community speakers in August.
  4. Commissioner Williams asked if the public hearing format can be updated. Secretary Elion suggested keeping the same model for this last public hearing on harms. Commissioner Williams agreed with the suggestion of considering speaker styles to engage audience. Commissioner Trask, Watson, and Williams suggested additional entertainment elements. Chair Slaughter suggested it be done as the welcome. Secretary Elion stated elected officials have done the welcomes in the past.
- b. Legislative Review Team Report Out
    - i. Deputy Director Dixon stated the team met yesterday. The Slavery Era Disclosure Bill did not advance, but he requested transcript from subject matter hearing in late April. They are looking to put a framework together on how to better support ADCRC.
  - c. Framework for Preliminary Recommendations
    - i. Secretary Elion presented a possible initial phase of recommendations framework of 1 reparative justice program being proposed for each of the 11 focus areas. He also mentioned a public survey could be used to gain input on a short list of program recommendations for each focus area. Some foundational items could be proposed outside of the 11 programs to enable the broad policy implementation like data disaggregation. Alternative numbers of proposed programs were suggested both higher and lower. Many other questions were asked and answered about the framework, but voting was tabled until subsequent meetings.
  - d. EAT on Black Fathers
    - i. Chair Slaughter stated they are scheduled to present in the July full Commission meeting for 45 min.

**X. Public Comment**

- a. 1 citizen attended in person and there were 9 virtual attendees.
- b. In person stated his appreciation for work the commission's work. He voiced concern with "Africanizing" of the commission. His grandmother is a freedman and Illinois practiced "black codes" that were unfair to freedmen. He recommended the designation to freedmen: 25% Illinois jobs and an Office of Freedman Affairs. The office will address the needs of freedmen for many years to come. He is concerned about program coming out of this work in multiple years, but not really helping the impacted community.
- c. Ernest Russell virtually suggested establishing an Office of Freedman Affairs. He is disappointed that the speaker did not present on vocational centers today. Every good project has a lesson learned like California. Director DeVaughn, Representative Harper, and Senator Belt need to be aware of legislators' response and the risk of 100 recommendations will not be well received. He



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agreed to suggesting policies to public for their response, then fight for support of the politicians to make them happen. The public wants to know which politicians are in support of making bills happen in the short, medium, and long term. He suggested virtual public hearings when low attendance may happen to drive more engagement. He supports data disaggregation and the establishment of an Office of freedman affairs to support vocational centers.

- d. Nette virtually agreed with both public comment speakers and requested data disaggregation to set up beneficiaries for office of freedman affairs. She hopes harms report identifies the eligible community.

**XI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.**

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