



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

**African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission
Full Committee Meeting
Friday, February 20, 2026 at 1:00 pm**

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order – 1:08 pm

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Commissioner Algee – Absent
Secretary Elion – Present
Commissioner Jones – Present
Commissioner Mayers – Present at 1:50 pm
Commissioner Moore – Present at 1:25pm
Commissioner Sachnoff – Present
Chair Slaughter – Present
Commissioner Phelon – Absent
Commissioner Williams – Present at 1:50 pm
Vice Chair Bush – Present
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Absent
Representative Harper – Present virtually
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 January Full Commission Meeting minutes made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Sachnoff – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

IV. CMS Program Manager Updates (not covered)

V. PR/Communications Team Updates

- a. Kiera and Maria from RISE presented social media growth in double digits up to 100-200 followers on each social media platform. Impressions are up around 100 -300 impressions. They requested commissioners post from the social media toolkit and previewed the April public hearing post graphic. In March, Women's History Month and paid advertising campaigns will be launched.



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- b. Maria from RISE presented some of the Harms Report press release and communications plan emailed to commissioners. She showed a sample of the first paid social media advertisement. Chair Slaughter requested adding Capital Facts to the publications list.
- c. **Motion to approve the April Public Hearing Graphics made by Commissioner Sachnoff, seconded by Secretary Elion – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**
- d. Secretary Elion suggested more explicit language about slavery existing in Illinois and raising enslaved number to 4000 per the Illinois Secretary of State website. Commissioners and RISE agreed with updating the language.
- e. Chair Slaughter recommended a stronger wealth gap language and adding that graphic to the end of the post. RISE clarified that all the images will be posted together. The call to action will still be the last slide but the wealth gap will be last in the grouped graphics.
- f. **Motion to approve the Harms Report rollout plan and graphics made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Secretary Elion – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

VI. Old Business

- a. **Office of Descendants of Slavery/ Lineage Data Disaggregation**
 - i. **Policy Development Sessions**
 - 1. Chair Slaughter and Representative Harper will craft language for the policy memo together to present to the ADCRC. Chair Slaughter requested commissioners send changes they would like to see incorporated. Secretary Elion reminded that the January ADCRC minutes have captured requests from commissioners on policy memo.
 - ii. **Next Steps (not covered)**
- b. **April Public Hearing**
 - i. **Community Speaker Confirmation**
 - 1. **Dilla**
 - a. Chair Slaughter announced he confirmed him.
 - 2. **Ernest Crim III**
 - a. Chair Slaughter mentioned he confirmed him.
 - 3. **Mayor Atkins**
 - a. Commissioner Cosey-Lane was not in attendance, but virtually confirmed Brooklyn, Illinois Mayor Atkins through communications through Secretary Elion.
 - ii. **Speaker Points**
 - 1. Chair Slaughter requested commissioners send topics to community speakers. Secretary Elion reemphasized that focus the April Public Hearing will be policy and the historians should not just cover the history of the harms.
 - 2. Program Manager Johnson showed the Run of Show. Commissioner Sachnoff suggested a City of Chicago Alderman doing the introduction and Secretary Elion suggested Du Sable Museum's President Irmer. Chair Slaughter suggested adding a statement from Governor Pritzker and Commissioner Sachnoff offered to make the request to the Governor's office.
 - 3. Commissioner Williams offered to assist Program Manager Johnson in coordinating with Du Sable Museum.



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4. Representative Harper suggested adding topics on black farming and cannabis as she created the cannabis equity policy and Chair Slaughter agreed. Secretary Elion stated that there is an essay on black farming harms suffered in the ADCRC Harms Report and suggested any speaker discuss repair and/or enforcement of policies already in existence. Representative Harper will have confirmed black farmer community speaker by the March ADCRC meeting.
 5. Chair Slaughter suggested describing accomplishments of ADCRC and the phase of making recommendations.
- c. **ADCRC Survey Review**
- i. **Timeline Adjustment Motion**
 1. Chair Slaughter stated the timeline will be pushed back because the Urban League and other organizations have not submitted their policy recommendations. He added the policy recommendations would also be pushed out to the fall. Commissioner Mayers stated he can ask the new NAACP president for policy recommendations on the Racial Terror Period. Chair Slaughter is awaiting policy recommendations from the Urban League. Representative Harper stated passing legislation will be a multiyear effort and suggested submitting policy recommendations to allow legislature as much time as possible to digest and socialize the policies. Secretary Elion reiterated that the original plan was to introduce in the policy recommendations to the public and legislators on Juneteenth to capitalize on the black holiday's public and media interest. Commissioner Watson agreed with Representative Harper and Secretary Elion on the urgency of issuing policy recommendations. Secretary Elion recommended the ADCRC should only wait for organizations to an extent as they may or may not deliver policy recommendations and it can cost the ADCRC valuable time and Representative Harper agreed.
- d. **ADCRC Harm Report Final Approval (Quorum Required)**
- i. **Release Date**
 1. Program Manager Johnson stated that the Harms Report is planned to be released on Friday, February 27.
 2. **Motion to approve the Harms Report release date of February 27 was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Secretary Elion – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**
- e. **ADCRC Policy Recommendation Letters**
- i. Chair Slaughter reminded commissioners to get policy recommendation letters. Secretary Elion suggested pulling from policy recommendation reports the ADCRC already received from organizations who have presented at monthly meeting and public hearings for upcoming public survey.

VII. New Business

- a. **Formal Policy on Public Comment**
 - i. Program Manager Johnson will touch base with Cynthia on creating ADCRC Public Statements and Press Releases on current events.



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VIII. Public Comment

- a. 2 citizens attendees virtually.
- b. Ernest Russell thanked the commission for its work. He is campaigning and recruiting his 100-200 family members in the Chicagoland area to engage with the work of the commission. He is in support of the Office of Descendants of Slavery and Data Disaggregation bills. His Russell, Crawford, Townsend and other family names that migrated to Chicago only to experience systems of harm while still accomplishing despite those harms. He is also looking forward to the Harms Report release next week.
- c. Nette thanked the ADCRC for its work and attention to detail on the imagery being shared out to the public. She appreciated the survey questions with hopes that a layman citizen will be able to understand the language. She is also looking forward to the release of the Harms Report.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm

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