



State of Illinois
African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission

**African Descent-Citizens Reparations Commission
Full Committee Meeting
Friday, January 16, 2026 at 1:00 pm**

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order – 1:08 pm

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Commissioner Algee – Present
Secretary Elion – Present
Commissioner Jones – Present
Commissioner Mayers – Present at 1:50 pm
Commissioner Moore – Present
Commissioner Sachnoff – Present
Chair Slaughter – Present
Commissioner Phelon – Present
Commissioner Williams – Present
Vice Chair Bush – Present
Commissioner Cosey-Lane – Present
Representative Harper – Present
Commissioner Trask – Present
Commissioner Watson – Present
Representative Weber – Absent

Quorum was established with 14 members in attendance in person.

III. Approve Meeting Minutes (Quorum Required)

- a. **Motion to approve the December Full Commission Meeting minutes made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Vice Chair Bush – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

IV. CMS Program Manager Updates

- a. Program Manager Johnson updated that the DuSable Museum has been held for April 25, 2026 for the April Public Hearing.
- b. CMS will review and discuss releasing the final version of the Harms Report.

V. PR/Communications Team Updates

- a. Alannah from RISE presented a gradual social media follower increase over the last month with slower growth due to holidays. The LinkedIn and Facebook posts have higher impressions due to Commissioner Jones and her company



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resharing posts. They have provided the ADCRC with a social media toolkit to expand the reach of the ADCRC accounts with suggested text and graphics. An eblast has been created with Program Manager Johnson that has not been sent out yet. Commissioner interviews will be conducted today along with a photo to be used throughout the year. An MLK Day post will go out Monday along with a 100th anniversary centennial of Black History Month post. Tara from RISE shared the Harms Report Dissemination Outline including Messaging Creation, Media Relations, Thought Leadership, Content Development, Target Audiences, Press Release, Fact Sheet, Digital and Social Distribution, and Paid Budget. They provided an update that Sherman "Dilla" Thomas, DuSable Museum Urban Historian will discuss opportunities to utilize his platform to amplify ADCRC messaging. Commissioner Phelon emphasized the need to improve the mobile version of the ADCRC website.

VI. Old Business

a. Office of Descendants of Slavery/ Lineage Proposal Conversation/ Data Disaggregation

i. Discussion/ Policy Memo Review

1. Chair Slaughter discussed policy briefs previously disseminated. He mentioned the Office would perform reporting, genealogy research, and policy enablement of policies suggested by the commission at a later date. He called out a few of the Office's measurable goals to impact the descendant community. Representative Harper stated the policy brief format is appropriate format to engage legislators with. Vice Chair Bush agreed with the Office idea and requested representation across all regions of the state. Representative Harper asked who should do the work and what is the mandate behind the work. She also suggested prescribing in addition to state implementation specifying as much as possible when community organizations and universities should perform tasks. She recommending having dialogue with offices and organizations to inform the recommendation. Chair Slaughter added a combination of documentation from criteria 1 and 2 shared in the policy brief should be used for Office benefit eligibility. Commissioner Trask added the DNA relationship advantage for those who cannot provide documentation. Chair Slaughter clarified that the 1900 date increases the likelihood of descendants to almost 100% out of citizens documented as African American or Negro in the United States. Commissioner Williams stated eligibility could be a hurdle for those without documentation and he is concerned about people with mixed ancestry. Chair Slaughter clarified the Office will assist in verifying self-identifying descendants and educating members of the public. Vice Chair Bush agreed that repair and education is needed in this space. Commissioner Trask asked for the numbers of who would be eligible under different criteria and if there could be space for language for others that do not fit the eligibility criteria. Chair Slaughter stated that addressing others would require changing the bill language because the existing language is not harms based. Commissioner Trask added to focus on harms would suffer less attacks. Secretary Elion



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suggested adding specificity to the 1 ancestor language and asked when responsibilities of the Office will be determined. Chair Slaughter suggested approving the concept of the policy, then deciding on responsibilities and sharing them out. Representative Harper suggested to continue crafting language and share with her. She also suggested supporting HB5914 and finding out why other bills and commissions with the same goals have not been successful. Discussion ensued about the uniqueness of the harms and lineage of the descendant community.

ii. **Motion & Vote (Quorum Required)**

1. **Motion to adopt the Office of ADOS Affairs and Data Disaggregation policy frameworks proposals made by Commissioner Sachnoff, seconded by Commissioner Mayers – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

b. **April Public Hearing**

i. **Expert Speaker Confirmation**

1. Chair Slaughter suggested William Darity and Kirsten Mullen speak on the wealth gap together.
2. Commissioner Algee contacted Rev. Otis Moss III who is on board to speak and excited. She added that Clayola Brown has also committed to presenting and has requested more information. Chair Slaughter suggested Rev. Moss speak on the religious imperative and Clayola Brown present on labor.
3. Vice Chair Bush suggested the highlighting actions in the Public Hearing. She also suggested having speakers from central and southern Illinois. Chair Slaughter agreed and suggested they speak in the Community Speaker slots.

ii. **Community Speaker Confirmation**

1. Chair Slaughter suggested Historians Ernest Crim III and Sherman "Dilla" Thomas.
2. Commissioner Jones suggested having someone from the arts space since a great performance space has been created. Commissioner Williams will think of someone from the arts, but also suggested he keep the number of speakers low. He also recommended a panel without questions from the audience. Secretary Elion added that the panel could include Ernest Crim III, Sherman "Dilla" Thomas, southern and central Illinois community speakers. Commissioner Cosey-Lane agreed, then emphasized balancing the panel with controlled questions. She also suggested the Mayor of Brooklyn, Illinois due to town history that she is currently engaging with. Vice Chair Bush agreed and reemphasized its town history.
3. Chair Slaughter suggested outreaching Chance the Rapper. Secretary Elion suggested having him perform at the Juneteenth Reparations Rally instead. Commissioner Algee agreed and emphasized he would also be good for the April Public Hearing to engage a younger demographic.
4. Chair Slaughter recommended individuals speak to the past, present, and future of reparations.



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5. **Motion to approve the Ernest Crim III, Sherman “Dilla” Thomas, Mayor of Brooklyn minutes made by Commissioner Algee, seconded by Commissioner Williams – all voted in favor – Motion passed.**

iii. **ADCRC Survey Review/Approval**

1. Chair Slaughter presented the questions for the digital survey containing 16 questions at approximately 10 minutes.
2. Commissioner Williams recommended shortening the survey by 2 or 3 questions and mentioned the ranking process is intellectually intense. Commissioner Johnson asked if options can be selected. Vice Chair Bush suggested asking for which item is most important. Commissioner Cosey-Lane suggested removing the cash question. Chair Slaughter responded he would like the cash question to be a part of the conversation. Commissioner Moore suggested adding additional descriptions or definitions for reparations.
3. Secretary Elion suggested using phrases and linking material like the Harms Report and Policy Recommendation Letters. He added the goal of collecting survey responses is to inform the policy recommendations of the commission, so the most important part of the survey is having citizens select from the short list of simple concepts so we can quantifiably represent the public sentiment. Commissioner Phelon suggested using more simple language and Commissioners Cosey-Lane and Algee agreed for all citizens to be engaged. Chair Slaughter stated the survey is for all citizens and that RISE will inform the rollout. Commissioner Moore suggested using ChatGPT to simplify the language.
4. Secretary Elion suggested collecting feedback on the survey offline in order to approve it in the February ADCRC meeting to capitalize on public interest during Black History Month.

iv. **ADCRC Harm Report Final Approval – Covered Above**

1. **Review Timeline**
2. **Release Date**

v. **ADCRC Policy Recommendation Letters**

1. Chair Slaughter reminded commissioners to get policy letters. Secretary Elion suggested pulling from policy recommendation reports the ADCRC already received from organization who have presented at monthly meeting and public hearings.

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Mayers stated the need to have a press release statement on ICE’s negative activity impacts on the descendant community broadly and more specifically in Illinois. He read a draft statement that he submitted for ADCRC consideration to be further crafted by RISE and CMS staff. Commissioner Williams and other commissioners responded positively to the content of the statement. Assistant Director Williams cautioned the ADCRC on making a statement on something not directly tied to the ADCRC mission. Commissioners Watson and Phelon questioned how the ADCRC determines which issues statements are issued on and suggested a policy on making public statements. Commissioner Mayers agreed with creating a policy. CMS



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read how the ADCRC statute language connects to the proposed issuing of statements and suggested crafting a policy to tie to statute.

1. **Motion to approve create policy on when to issue statements made by Commissioner Phelon, seconded by Vice Chair Bush – all voted in favor except Commission Sachnoff who abstained – Motion passed.**
- b. Commissioner Trask mentioned that he met with a Chicago Reparations Group and they requested Chair Slaughter attend an April 26 event along with its March planning meeting.
- c. Chair Slaughter stated he is working with Chicago Reparations Commission to potentially have Mayor Johnson attend the April Public Hearing. The Chicago Reparations Commissions and ADCRC are considering having a joint meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. 2 citizens attendees virtually.
- b. Ernest Russell stated the ADCRC may be “scared” to suggest bold legislation. If Representative Harper will not sponsor bills, he suggests names of legislators be provided who will co-sponsor bills. Keith Porter who died in Minnesota over immigration should be tied to an immigration commission. ADCRC should give priority to descendant community.
- c. Nette thanked the ADCRC for its work and stated it is crucial for ADCRC not to issue statement on ICE without all information being given to public. ADCRC has not issued statement on negative impact of immigration on descendant community. She recalled a commission conversation on how immigrant groups have had a different experience that descendants. Repair should not be considered to benefit those who have not experienced harm. Reparations without cash benefits is a welfare program.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm

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