



**Reparations Task Force Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 6 p.m.**

Location: Fulton County Government Center Assembly Hall, 141 Pryor St SW, Atlanta, GA
30303

Zoom:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/yGywq5rsjkEKzuHLlBVkIFBQkE5sQawR6ceHXnkOygp4pyhpU2sPQ8yAIJdYJ14t.IISYi8Hvfv4p_hF

POST AGENDA MINUTES – RATIFIED

This document has been ratified or approved by the Fulton County Reparations Task Force and is not binding on the County or any officer.

****A QUORUM WAS PRESENT****

Roll Call: Rodney Littles, Donte' Thompson, Greg Fann, Amanda Meng, Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Elon Butts Osby, Marcus Coleman, Mike Russell, Carole Sykes, Ann Hill Bond, Michael Simanga (not present - excused)

Staff Present: Fran Calhoun and Jordana Arias

Adoption of April 4, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Motion by Rodney Littles. Seconded by Marcus Coleman. Motion passes.

Approval of March 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Greg Fann. Seconded by Donte' Thompson. Motion passes.

Old Business

- Research updates
 - Slavery Research

- Convict Labor Research -
<https://fultoncountyga.gov/-/media/Commissioners/Reparations-Task/DataWorksPresentationConvictDataApril2024.pdf>
- Question from Bishop Greg Fann: Just for a question. In that data, do you have the time served, how many years they served for those crimes? Do you have that?
 - DataWorks Response: We do not have that.
 - Fann: That's very important. Yeah, that's important, because some may have spent 20 years, some may have spent 30 years, some may have died in jail, so we would need to have that data for sure .
 - DataWorks Response: Sometimes it does, like, because you see we have the received date there. Sometimes they do have the death date, but you know, obviously if they did not die, you know, in custody we don't have it, but that's the only information that we do have.
- Comment from Secretary Meng: Thanks, y'all. I wanted to add just one kind of comment to Bishop Fann's question, which is, we spent some time looking at some archival records that show convict lease labor camps. And it does show the duration of their time in the camps, but what it doesn't show is their race. They have the name, and how long they stayed there and maybe a few other things. And this is sort of a foundational data set so that we can have that full database of convicts and then once we piece together labor camps, we can actually join that additional information. So this is, this is sort of like, yeah, the foundational data set and from there will be able to bring in other information as we continue to digitize other archives.
- Question from Mr. Donte' Thompson: And Dr. Meng when you say other information, will we know the charges?
 - Response from Dr. Meng: Well, they do have the crime.
- Comment from Chair Sims-Alvarado: And it will be interesting to see the numbers of years served and comparing that to other inmates of different races to compare the sentencing. So, one of the things that's important to show I've started looking at this, this data, and anybody can actually look for it on Ancestry. So, on Ancestry it lists all the names of the convicts from 1817 to the 1970s. And what you will begin to see is that you'll see where a person may be arrested in Fulton County, but then taken someplace else. But, but this is just county it's not even federal yet, but yeah, but Reidsville. Speaking of Reidsville, I saw where Dr King was

actually arrested. Yeah, he was taken to Reidsville. But when, what you'll see from 1817 to 1865 is that those who are arrested and detained. They're listed not by race but by complexion, and I think only so one person listed as Black, but you'll see things like dark, fair, tan, copper, you know, prior to 1865. But what happens in 1865, you begin to look at, okay, now they are identifying individuals racially, and then you begin to see Black appear after 1865. When you go into Ancestry and you begin to look at information for Fulton County, and then looking at the number of individuals who are arrested and detained. You can gradually see the number of black inmates increase. And you have to ask yourself why. Well, Governor, let me get his name right. I don't like to lie on people. Governor Bullock, he was the first Republican governor after Reconstruction. And he is the same individual that would introduce Booker T. Washington during the 1895 Paris Exposition. Well, here's what happened to Governor Bullock. He's the first Republican governor, right, so he is, even though he becomes an advocate for newly Freed People after slavery ended. He will push for something called I believe it was called the Georgia, the Georgia Act, where he would ask that the federal government remain in Georgia during Reconstruction. And as long as the federal troops are in the South, it makes it very challenging for Whites to engage in White terror. So they're in the South in order to register Free Blacks, they're working for the Freedmen's Bureau, they are providing protection for them, they're over the courts. And so, but once they're moved out, then it allows for Democrats who were conservative at the time to regain power and use intimidation, particularly around the boat. But with Governor Bullock, even though he does these things for African Americans, he actually is in support of the 14th Amendment being passed by state legislators, and I see we have state legislators in the house. And what happens is that the only way that Georgia can be readmitted back into the union is by actually approving the 14th Amendment. And the governor is pushing for it, not only because we need to be readmitted back into the Union, but he also wants to contract in order to, to get a loan to get involved in row in the railroad industry. So all this saga and drama that's going on, and I don't want to bore you with the details. But let's just say that Governor Bullock was actually run from, he was run out of office by the KKK. And he will also be the one to actually pass legislation for convict labor. So the convict labor is used in order to replace slave labor, because when slavery ended, Black people decided that they were not going to return back to the fields. Their grandparents weren't going to return to the fields. The husband said my wife and my children would not return to the fields. And so as a result of that Georgia had a labor shortage. So they had to find ways in order to put people back to work. And then in these major cities, particularly in the place where Sherman actually destroyed cities and uprooted railroads, those cities had to be reconstructed. Black people are going to go to those places where there are jobs. So and then there are jobs that Black men refused to take. Then the

state governor decided that they would put individuals to work. They didn't even have people to perform public works to build the railroads to build the streets to dig the ditches to create the sewer system. So they had to find the labor in order to do that. So individuals had to be forced to do that. So that's where we're going to see the convict labor come in at.

- Question from Chair Sims-Alvarado: For DataWorks.. We can't see your faces. I like to see faces when I'm talking to people, but with the data that you have - Is it for all of Georgia? Is it Georgia and you're narrowing it down to Fulton County.
 - DataWorks response: It is all of Georgia.
 - Ms. Ann Hill Bond comment: The spreadsheet does organize to Fulton County, but all of Georgia is on the spreadsheet.
- Question from Chair Sims-Alvarado: Will your data provide us with the names of individuals?
 - Yes, it has their name, age, crime, and gender.
- Question from Vice Chair Coleman: Madam chair, I'd like for Christopher, can you come up one more time. There's a question that I asked you before that I think is very relevant to be put on record. Because we hear over and over again. Ancestry.com referenced. Well, there's a large group of individuals that question the validity. Do you remember we had this conversation? Could you please talk to the critics of the authenticity of the research that is gathered by an ancestry.com? We referenced various court cases and things of that nature. You give an excellent answer months ago but I keep hearing the non belief in this and we're basing some research if not a lot of it on that so I want to make sure it's defended early on.
 - Response from Christopher Smothers: Sure. Ancestry is like a library. It's like a digital library. Many of the records that are on Ancestry have been taken out of archives, courthouses, oral history, memoirs, different things like that. Even the federal government like the Library of Congress WPA narratives. The research that's been conducted so far is the nature of how I approach research is very primary. It doesn't really use ancestry.com. For a lot of the things that I have pulled personally, not saying there is no use of these digital repositories because they're great. They make records more accessible and that's their purpose that's their main purpose. The records that come from the probate records for enslaved people, even the, the convict, you know, labor records those are House of the Georgia Archives. Me and Dr. Meng had this conversation about, you know, the very real

possibility that more information regarding Fulton County convict labor could be out there but has yet to be acquisitioned by the Georgia Archives. These types of things are decisions that are made in the powers that be, and in these different boards that exist. The records regarding the probate records are right across the street. Not all of them are digitized, but the records that we have taken for the purpose of this study have been digitized and have been fully utilized and to discredit this research is... yeah, it's foolish because I flipped through every single page of these books personally so, and again Dr. Meng can tell you, I can read this information pretty good. So it's, it's information that I'm personally witnessing and pulling these names out of these documents. It's a very different approach. That is why historians exist.

- Comment from Chair Sims-Alvarado: And it needs to be made clear that Ancestry is not performing this work. They're just making records accessible to the public. You take out a subscription and it is a culmination of sources that's been digitized that's made available to the public, but they're not like in a lab putting together data. So that needs to be noted.

- Comment from Dr. Meng: So it was actually Christopher and Dana who couldn't be here with us today but Dana is with DataWorks. We went to look at some state archival records related to convict lease labor and there were several volumes. So just like the Data Works folks just today talked about the volumes related to the register of convicts, these were volumes related to convict lease labor camps, where they had the companies, they had individual names, there were some, you know, dollars and cents next to them. So we did find a lot of useful data there. What we were very hopeful to find that we haven't at this point was all of what we expected to see related to Fulton County. It's interesting how easily we could see other counties mentioned in these records but not Fulton County. And a lot of our conversation was, we know these records are somewhere, and why is it so challenging to locate them and why aren't they at these state archives. Are they with a county agency are they with a different... We even talked to the librarian or the archivist about what state agency was the originator of the records and how they got to that archive, so there's still a lot of sleuthing, a lot of trying to find the actual records. But even still, with what we had, what we found there, we do want to digitize some of that because especially those companies that were using convict lease labor that were paying taxes to Fulton County, which is seen in the tax register, that is something that we want to compile together of course that we can go ahead and work on but. Yeah, I guess we spent about four hours there kind of paging through it and having conversations about where's the other data.

- Chair Sims-Alvarado: So, regarding Ancestry and and the accessibility of records, some of these records as we continue to see have not been digitized and made accessible to the public, even like in smaller towns, those records are available. And you begin to ask some questions about why these records are not accessible. And where, where are they. Yeah, and it should be noted that during one of the gubernatorial elections, the issue of convict labor was a heated debate during the elections. There were a lot of people who came out to talk about the conditions of inmates, both blacks and whites. There was even a push for products to be labeled as convict made products. And, and we are still not addressing that today. The question came up about slavery still being listed in the 13th Amendment, and used as punishment for crime. So these things continue to come up at the advocacy for the conditions of individuals who are detained. I mean, there has been a conversation for more than a century, and inmates actually used to have a fair wage. And what became of that I don't know, but the question continues to come up.
 - Financial Report provided by Mr. Rodney Littles
 - See end of document
 - Motion by Greg Fann to accept the financial statement report. Second by Amanda Meng. Motion passes.

New Business

- Invited Guest Speaker: Dee Dawkins-Haigler, former GA State Representative/former Georgia Legislative Black Caucus Chair/ 2023 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee
 - Comment from Bishop Fann: You know how many times Reverend Love and I and Rodney has come down there asking for them to give us a percentage and met with your caucus and everything. And I called the demon dome because a lot of evil folks down there doing evil things to good people. So you know my heart is in it. And I definitely hope that you get back in office so that you can continue to fight for us under that demon dome.
 - Response from Dee Dawkins-Haigler: You're right, you and Reverend, and many of y'all. You would come down to that capital and you stood up for the least of these. And Robert along with James Orange and I miss him dearly, and that's kind of how I got started in the movement James Orange actually Joseah Williams started me and James Orange and Joseph Lowery and all of those. And so I'm still here. I was one of the young people now but now I'm, I once was young. And now I'm older. We all have to get on one accord. We really do y'all because it's a lot at stake and let me just say, because I'm not... And I am a strong Democrat. Let me just be very clear... But at this point in my life, I have realized that Democrats nor

Republicans really do what they need to do when it comes to the reparations of Black people. Now I'm just going to say that and then I'm going before I get myself in trouble. But I mean that I stand flat-footed on that one.

- Comment from Mr. Rodney Little: Well, thank you so much for joining us this evening and sharing that that was very enlightening as it relates to the United Nations. I know that a couple years back the United Nations challenged the United States to deal with the issue. And we haven't as of yet. As relates to the General Assembly. I wish you much luck. I won't be there next session. Rogers is retiring and so am I. But I noticed in the last three years in an effort to pass a reparations study commission bill that the difficulty that we experienced was not just with the other side of the aisle. It was with folks that look just like you and me. The comment without giving up my NDA violation says, I can't go back home if I sign on to this bill. What's back home? We had the largest Black legislative caucus in the country, I keep being told, but I can't see it in the impact. And when, when the change occurred when I think it was, the 2010 session came in, and a lot of White Democrats won, and they switched parties, and the Republicans took control of the House and the Senate. And what happened at that time was they racialized politics in Georgia, the Democratic conference was 90% Black. And I think that's part of the problem that we are not viewed as full citizens in participating under that demon dome, as my colleague would say. So I wish you luck in coming back, and I applaud you for the work that you've done around the world. Thank you very much.
 - Response from Dee Dawkins-Haigler: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. And you're right. Really being the largest legislative black caucus in the country, there is no reason why, I mean none whatsoever, why there is not a full reparations task force and for it to be effective and up and running and let me say one of the things I did when I was a chair the Black Caucus anytime that we did not address the issue or that they majority party would start a commission that was devoid of black people. I would start a commission of our own and have people come down there because there is no excuse to be trying to make excuses. We do what we want to do. And we should not be scared of anything, except God, I fear nothing but God.
- Question from Ms Ann Hill Bond: Hi, good evening. I wanted to ask your opinion or your words of wisdom on something. I recently went to a lecture and I heard Steven Golding out of Jamaica the UNIA president of Jamaica speak on reparations and his take on it was a little different than what I'm used to hearing. So it was reparations from the space of people of African descent as the victor that reparations should be paid because we were the victor, and not the victims. Right. And so his analysis behind it was when someone loses, they pay, right, like you lost something. So you pay but in the Caribbean in America in Brazil in Europe, but mostly in Caribbean. His work is focused on when they lost slavery,

the enslavers were paid and it was the same thing here. Why did they get paid, right? And so he was asking the question of how does that work if you, if you're in court and you lose, then the person that loses pays retribution. So, he was encouraging people of African descent to position themselves in the victor space. So you being in partnership or understanding the UN and their views about reparations what do you think about the positioning that we take as people of African descent as victors or victims.

- Response from Dee Dawkins-Haigler: And actually I've never heard that and I kind of. Okay, so, because words mean everything. Now, I get and I see and I heard it so I get where he's going, saying that you all lost, kind of like how the South lost, the Confederacy lost, but they still revel in the Confederacy and still have those rebel flags and Confederate flags all over the place. And they got paid. So, I think that's a good way to do it in Jamaica, maybe, but in the United States, see we can't. If we say that we are victors, see, and I'm not saying not to say it... In the United States they try to Jedi mind trick us. And they turn around and say if you victors, why do you need anything. See, I don't want to give them any room to play around with us. So that's just my opinion. Now, but if that works for him in Jamaica, knock themselves out, but for Dee Dawkins-Haigler, in the United States of America – I'm not going to say we're victors. We're victorious now, but they still got to run us our coins because they owe us and they need to pay what they owe.

Announcements

- Chair Sims-Alvarado: We have our first invitation from an elected official for us to talk about reparations. I received an email from Commissioner Bridget Thorne. And she didn't cc everyone, but she copied Madam Secretary, and I want to read the email so that way we need to bring some clarity about protocol. So this is from the commissioner. She says Miss Sims-Alvarado, and y'all know how my name is spelled. All right. "I'm hosting a town hall April the 11th at 6pm. I will love for you to attend and give a 10 minute update on the Reparations Task Force. There seems to be a lot of interest in my area. There would be mayors, city council, and other elected officials present. Thank you." So I want to remind everyone that the commissioners appoint two individuals to represent their district. So this is when you meet with your commissioners. I don't think it's a good idea for members of the executive team to present at the town hall because we stated to the public that we will have two town halls. And so I don't want people to be confused that we are presenting a town hall, and the first one is in north Fulton. And so it may create a lot of confusion but if we are to follow protocol, considering that we do represent districts and I would like for the two appointees for the commissioner to be present if you can. So this is our first invitation so I want to thank her for the invitation but I would like for her two appointees to consider attending. It is April the 11th at 6pm. And that's it for now.
 - Vice Chair Coleman: Piggybacking off of that email without being long winded here. Just for the record, you don't contact two thirds of the executive committee.

We seem to be falling into a habit with some people, outside entities, that are starting to get comfortable for whatever reason. I don't know Mr. Thompson, Mr. Littles, they seem to be maybe they forget my email. They're leaving me out of the correspondence. Now I'm so glad that madam chair and I, before this really got started, we had a long talk then we've had several long talks, just about the unity that must exist. And I appreciate you for sharing information that I should be included in. Now of course people have their own relationships. It might be sent to one of us. And then we share it but when you send it to two thirds. It's not an accident. So I just want to make sure we put that on the record now. I won't be silenced, I won't be blocked out of information. There will be some point in time where whoever that is you may have to deal with me and I'm not acting like I'm some scary figure. But please for the sake of protocol, transparency, fairness, and honesty let's just make sure you contact the entire executive committee which is three folks.

- Mr. Rodney Littles: I guess sometimes we forget that we are in a political environment. I truly understand what my colleague had to say, and it's par for the course; however, I personally get calls from my commissioner that appointed me, and or I reach out to give her updates after our meetings. I thought that's why I was appointed by that person. I don't call any other commission nor does any other commissioner call me, but I do report, I do keep her informed, as I thought was my responsibility.
 - Chair Sims-Alvarado. Yes, we all should be providing updates to our commissioners and know that you have that autonomy to be able to do that. So if I'm not present, then Commissioner Hall will call on Miss Hill Bond. She needs representation. Understand that you do have that autonomy.
 - Vice Chair Coleman: Considering we're becoming more popular. And with more popularity comes more problems or potential problems. As we get closer to compiling all the deliverables, and when people really start to understand, because of course the talk of the town is the state of California and rightfully so, but now they have hit a snag with convincing the majority of the California General Assembly members. We're not a state, but as time rolls on people are going to have an a-ha moment that this work that we're doing that we have to still do and compiling it and coming up with the political suggestions. I just, I've been to about maybe three different cities in the last couple weeks, having the opportunity to travel and work with a lot of families, a lot of tragedies. And Madame Chair and others here, this is at the top of my priority list, because I know how historic we already have been, but where we are going. So I say that because there's a lot of political games being played by the powers that be who sit in these seats. There's been some things that said they're going to stay in-house and I have to respect that. But when my level of education is in question or what my profession is, it would just behoove people, especially those in the novice area or the elementary area, to do more research. Because again, this is historic and we're moving forward.
- April 17th Reparations event at The Gathering Spot

Public Comments

Kyson Barnes

I'm a student at Kennesaw State University. I'm an architecture major. I just kind of wanted to come here to just hear what's going on, because I'm really interested and I heard about what was going on in California. So the second I heard that I was like, Oh, something needs to happen here because this is like the capital of the south and this is where slavery was really prominent compared to places like California so something has got to happen as soon as possible. So I just wrote a little something. I know that Atlanta kind of serves as a symbol of hope for the Black diaspora. The city should transform from the symbol to an actual manifestation of this idea of hope, because people are still hurting from generations of racism, stemming from a dark past which we talked about today which is slavery. So, doing a little bit of research post slavery programs like the Freedmen's Bureau were created to try to help people from that transition from slavery. But they weren't successful because of terrorism from White people who didn't want Black people to be equal in the lack of funding. So, I think that just hearing what I've heard today from like Dee Dawkins and from the people I'm just now meeting you all you guys is that there needs to be some type of like like cash actual like payment to all the Black people that are descendants of slaves. So, I'm on the same page as you guys with that. And I was also thinking that we need to probably think about like a system like a new system for our kids, kids and kids and kids and down the line, because slavery was a system that ran in the south and in the United States that was profited off. So, like, there should probably be a system that we plan that can survive the next 100-200 years. And, yeah, because it would be great to like get a check from the government, like right now, when I think about it, it's kind of like, it's an opportunity to like really transform our kids kids kids lives for the better. So that's all I had to say. Thank you.

George Chidi

Hi, I'm a journalist. I've, some of you may know me from various publications I've been writing for for over the years. I've taken a full time job I write for the Guardian, the mighty, the mighty Guardian of England they have a large US presence. They're the ninth largest English publication in the world. They also have a legacy around slavery. In 2020 they the Scott Trust which owns the Guardian began an inquiry into the roots of the creation of the Guardian. Lord Taylor in 1819 founded the Guardian and Taylor was a cotton and textile mill owner in Manchester, who among other things bought a lot of cotton from Georgia. In the spirit of that report that was released in 2023 the Guardian has been staffing up they've added staff in the Caribbean in South America and in Africa with a special focus, looking at issues of historical significance around slavery. In that spirit, I normally, I would just send an email, and I'll write something or I'll send an email. I don't like grandstanding but I wanted to make sure that my comments were in this record. And as a reporter for the Guardian, because something came across my transom a

couple of weeks ago. I wanted to make sure that the city through Central Atlanta progress is pursuing called the Stitch and now has \$157 million of federal funding. The idea is to cap the connector and build a park. It was part of the infrastructure bill and the intent was to help repair communities that were essentially destroyed by urban renewal and I know what that sounds like when I say it, the highway programs of the 50s in the 60s. Now, as it happens, major parts of sweet Auburn, maybe Mechanicsville and other parts of downtown Atlanta, or historically Black communities that got paved over. There is an organization that exists that might be able to find living people who owned that property, who may have had that property taken from them through an active eminent domain that may not have been fair, where their compensation wasn't fair, where it was where there was evidence of racial intent. This might actually be a use for this committee, where there is a pile of money that can be tapped to restore those living human beings. Just a thought.

Carolyn Smith

I'm Carolyn Smith. I'm a strategic communications and external affairs leader. I am representing the Atlanta Reparations Collaborative, which Anna Hill Bond was on our meeting today, but it's essentially a Collective of different Atlanta-based organizations who have a real vested interest in the work that you all are doing and are hoping to provide support and guidance and also with the community engagement and outreach and all that good stuff. So, because of your great person here, she's highly encouraging folks to reach out and speak so that's why I'm doing this public comment. That's all I have. So thank you.

Ray Jones

Yes, good to see y'all. Ray Jones with ADOS Advocacy Foundation. ADOS stands for American Descendants of Slavery. And yes, so I was hoping that you all can pull from other people who have been doing this work as far as with their nationwide pushes on a local level. I like what the city of Atlanta is doing their prefacing their committee or their task force, one line that they say is, "any municipal level reparations actions that are undertaken as a result of this commission's recommendations are not a replacement for any reparations enacted at the federal or state levels, and shall not be interpreted as such or serve to supplant or substitute for each." I think that'll just be good for y'all to state that because I think what they plan on these local municipalities they're looking at it as a distraction. They're like oh wow the federal government doesn't have to worry about this. But if y'all say that put that on front street I think that'll be good for everyone to see. I'll say this and I know I got limited time, but I wanted to say quickly that as we push along in the research. It will be important that we connect the dots from slavery to how it affects descendants of slavery that currently live in the county today. We can't let Fulton County get off the hook like that because if not, they're going to take a handful of families and people and say, Okay, this is who we got to deal with, but we know the attacks on CRT. We know the attacks on DEI. If we don't connect that dot, they'll be able to say that was then. Thanks for the history lesson, but as far as right now we're good so we have to connect that dot and let it be known that this is

a system that we've all been affected by. And I want to talk to you offline Brother Coleman because I read the amicus brief for the Fearless Fund. The sisters that are being attacked, and they're saying that that's DEI and we know that they're having the pushes across the country and we know that that same attorney was behind the affirmative action push in California. One argument that I feel like they left off was, wait a minute, you have Jewish angel investors that specifically give to Jewish small businesses. How are they able to do it, and the sisters of the Fearless Fund or not. I don't see that in the amicus brief but I feel like okay if you want the Fearless Fund to be done, then that means there are no more angel investors that can give specifically to women, which there are a lot of those that do that. I just want to know why that wasn't brought to the attention because we have to watch. We have to watch these and everything so thank y'all.

Xavier Klutz

Good Evening. How you're doing. So today is my very first time being here today. Yeah, can you hear me clearly? But I'm very pleased for the information. I'm also a self-taught genealogist. You see the Bees. I'm also a member of the Guale tribe of Georgia. My descent is also Gualechee out of Augustus Georgia. So my people are from Georgia. You know what I'm saying understand. So I take pride in Georgia and in the history. The Guale were also enslaved as well and turned into free persons of color, also being called mulatto, Negro, Free Whites, you know, etc. But I thank you guys for having this platform to get out to the world that it's possible to do this. It's very important that the world can hear and see that you know, reparations is important for the communities and how it affected us, you know, for the descendants. And, you know, it's very possible. I know that it will come to you guys and I'm just very pleased. I really didn't have too much but I really think the information you guys have is very useful. I got notes on top of notes. Because I also do it. I do South Carolina and Georgia Florida history. So you guys are very accurate. Yeah, I can tell the Brother back there takes his time and read when he deals with Georgia codes because I also deal with Georgia codes and South Carolina codes. But I'm very, very pleased. And also, I want to represent one of the youngest chiefs of the Guale tribe, but as one of the representatives I can definitely say we're watching and we're very hopeful and we can be more active and present. Because we are all around the state of Georgia, I'm very good friends with the chiefs of the Cherokee Nations and North Georgia, the Creek tribe and South Georgia, etc. But it's very important that we show support for this. All right, and my in language say [speaks in native tongue]. My name is moonhawk. But government wise it's Xavier Klutz, but I'm so appreciative. Have a good night.

Simone Whatley

Good evening. My name is Minister Simone Whatley. And I'm here because we all have something in common. And that is getting reparation. Bill HR 40 was approved back in 2021. However, it wasn't approved, the final conclusion of it wasn't approved. And that's unacceptable, especially in election season. I'm currently hosting two marches, one in June 13 to the

14 in Washington DC, and then the other one is going to be in September. And I'm asking that all of us as Black African American people in order for this to be successful, we all need to come together. That's the only way it's going to happen. I'm asking that people that support reparation in Michigan, Ohio, California, Georgia, all these different states that have their own reparation agenda. We need to all come together and tackle it on a federal level. That's the only way. I'm asking Congress to pay for ancestry testing, along with DNA testing. I'm asking them to exempt us from paying taxes, at least 500 years since they oppressed us that long. I'm also asking for \$2 million. I'm asking that they put in law that any White person that call us the n-word, it should be a hate speech, not freedom of speech. I'm also asking that they pay for us to go back to Africa to at least visit. I'm also asking that they put in law that they could never cease our land rather it is business or personal land. They can never cease it ever again. And also that elderly 65 years or older, that they value or their property can increase, but their taxes should never increase. That's just trickery to take their, to take their property. And I'm asking that if you know some contacts in other states because it's so hard to can I'm on my own is Blacks United for Reparations now. Website is going to go is going to launch tomorrow and that's on www.levelupnow1.com is going to launch tomorrow. And I'm asking that all of us come together as one, because one thing I know about African American people, when we come together we are a force that can't be reckoned with. We all come together to Washington DC, they will have no choice, but to but to say yes to reparation, because if not, what I'm asking, I'm not going to demand nothing but what I'm asking for us as African American people who support reparation. If they do not pass it before election, I'm asking that we sit the selection out. It's okay to do our ancestors they marched some bled some died for our right to vote and that is our right to vote. We have that right and we honor them for that. But for this election, I believe that we can sit it out if they don't pass reparation. It's between Biden and Trump. Let them two work it out. If they don't if they don't consider African Americans as important and our agenda important, then it's okay for us to step back and let them to fight it out. That's my stance on it. Let them fight it out. They got the people got the power they have the power and authority to prove reparation and I think that they should. And so, again, my name is minister Simone widely. I am hosting a march in Washington DC in June, June 13 and 14 and also in the month of September for reparation. Thank you so very much.

Adjourn