



**Reparations Task Force Meeting
Tuesday November 6, 2025, at 6 p.m.**

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

Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/MwRMJDbwUMux9oSUXSDEikTnOqqk3xt07UGtxbLIkKGZy5fkO2VB3CMYKowwOY54.p6i7K1j8Py5hz6n2> Passcode: LDPc@8Kb

Roll Call Present: Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Rodney Littles, Greg Fann, Amanda Meng, Elon Butts Osby, Dontè Thompson, Dr. Michael Simanga; Excused: Marcus Coleman, Carole Sykes, Mike Russell, Ann Hill Bond

Fulton County Staff: Jessica Corbitt, Jordana Arias
Fulton County Commissioner Chairman Robb Pitts

Adoption of November 8, 2025, Meeting Agenda
Approval of September 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes
Approval of September 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt the November 8 Agenda by Dontè Thompson. Seconded by Rodney Littles. Motion passes.

Motion to approve the September 5, 2024 and September 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes by Dontè Thompson. Seconded by Dr. Simanga. Motion Passes

Old Business

- Harm Report

Chair Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: So, we're going to begin with old business. We are here tonight for the adoption of the harm report. Just to give a little context, we are, as of October of 2021, we have served on this task force for 4 years. And we have spent the past 2 years performing research. This is one of the hardest things that I've ever worked on. After putting together all the pages, I said, geez, this is for dissertations. So, but I'm

very proud of it. I'm proud of everyone who actually worked on it. I'm so excited for the commissioners who decided to support the idea of having this task force. We have Chairman Rob Pitts with us tonight. I would love to acknowledge you. Thank you for coming here tonight. I really do appreciate you being here for this historic event. We have worked on this day in, day night, day... all day, all night. As a matter of fact, we were working on it... I was working on it, up until a few hours of having this meeting, but I'm excited at what we have produced. So, let's not delay. I would like to have a motion to adopt the Fulton County Reparation Task Force Harm Report. Do I have a motion?

Motion to adopt the Fulton County Reparations Task Force Harm Report by Rodney Littles. Seconded by Dontè Thompson . Motion passes.

Mr. Rodney Littles: First, I would like to say that it has been an honor To be a part of this task force. I want to thank Commissioner Vice Chair Khadija Abdur-Rahman for appointing me. I didn't know what I was getting into. I just wanted to say yes, because she's somebody you don't say no to. It was a pleasure to get to know some folks I'd never worked with before. Bishop Phan, I've worked with before in the community, but just about everyone else except for the Vice Chair, Marcus Coleman, I hadn't worked with and didn't know. Part of the subcommittee that reviewed the drafts to work on editing, etc. I was flawed at the ability To get to the real facts. This is not a public relations effort. This is not a point-the-finger effort. Our job was to identify, as best as possible, the harm. We have not looked at Recommendations for repair. That's for another day, and maybe a new task force, or a re-engineered extension. But I would like to say that we stuck to our budget. As I was responsible for the fiscal monitoring and reporting, and we spent, \$210,000 of the \$250,000. And the other 40 will be left in the hands of the new Extended Task Force and Commission as to how that's handled. But we did not deal with repair. I want to make sure everybody understands that. That's another phase to get to. We dealt with the harm. And I want to say, Madam Chair, it's been a pleasure working under your leadership. Dr. Amanda Meng did a fantastic job in keeping us together as our secretary, and everyone put in time. to get to where we are today, so I am honored, humbled, to have been part of this. Some of you may know, and many may not know, I'm a third-generation descendant of the Tulsa Greenwood Race Massacre. So this is very near and dear to my spirit and my heart, to have been... had the opportunity to serve with such distinguished individuals who are dedicated to getting to the facts. And not the politics of this. This was about getting to the facts. So thank you so much. Everyone, for your participation. Thank you.

Dr. Michael Simanga: "Thank you. It has been a great pleasure working with all of you all. One of the things about the harm report that at this point, is... It's important, and a lot of people shy away from it, because it's old news, and it's also painful in many places. So, to have elected officials like Chairman Pitts and other people's support the importance of finding the truth. And it's a hard job, actually. It's taken us several years to get down in it and to understand what happened. And we hope that everybody, whether you have relatives who were complicit or were victims or stood on the sideline and did nothing, that this helps us to better understand each other. One of the unfortunate things about this kind of work is that people tend to see it only as important to Black people. But it's not...

And if we situate this in this current moment. We will understand why it's important for us to understand each other. So, I want to thank all of you all who've done anything to get people here, to tape us, to ask questions. This is a very important moment, and it took some really good people. I'm really almost tearful at how much people put into it. Not because I'm hurt, but because out of love, you know. So, and... one in particular who's kind of thought they could call me any time of day or night, but y'all know who I'm talking about, though, do you? Right? So, without her leadership, it wouldn't have happened. It would not have happened. So thank you both. Amanda, thank you for keeping us on the straight and narrow, too. Thank you.

Ms Elon Butts-Osby: I think I do want to say something. first of all, because I have to say things as I'm remembering them, because I will forget very quickly, but when I first came on board here. met these people, Karshik and Amanda and the others. I was in awe of them from the beginning. When I started to read the report. That all was just renewed and increased. I heard you all. I heard your voices. I heard your hearts when I was reading that. And for those of you all in the audience that don't know, I am a direct descendant of harm. by Fulton County instead of Atlanta. My grandparents owned... and my parents owned property in Bagley Park, which is on Pharr Road in Buckhead, and they were forced to... sell that property at meager prices so that a park could be built for the rich white people that lived in this new subdivision that was built alongside. And so the harm, there are layers of this harm. But being a direct descendant of that gives me the ability to understand and feel the harm differently, maybe, from other people. And there's been harm, inflicted on thousands and thousands of people, but I just wanted to share, especially since you are here, Chairman Pitts, I wanted to share that direct direct impact of harm. And we thank you, and we thank the other commissioners who entrusted us with this task. And, I don't know what's gonna happen after that, but if you're in the audience, if you have any opportunity to support this by way of email to your commissioners, letters, whatever you have to do, please support it. For no other reason, all of the hard work that has gone into it. These people don't sleep. We need to figure out how they do that, but I know for a fact they don't sleep. So thank you to people who have come to be here with us at different meetings, and again, thank you to Chairman Pitts and the Commissioners.

Bishop Greg Fann: I got one thing to say. My name is Greg Fann, and ditto to everything everybody said. Ditto.

Dontè Thompson: Well, first, I would like to thank Chairman Pitts for being here today. I think I was maybe one of the last people to join the task force. I have been welcomed here. I was appointed by my Commissioner, Thorne, but I must say that I have been welcome here, the conversations have been engaging, and I've also learned a lot, and I've also changed my opinion about some of the things that I initially thought, and has opened my eyes, and made me also look at my family history. So, thank you so much for allowing me to be on this task force, and working with all these wise people. Definitely a wealth of knowledge. Thank you again.

Chair Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Dr. Meng, let me just say... Before you begin, It's been so wonderful to work with you. This work has been hard. I... in my mind, and to my friends, and to my family, I have actually quit a thousand times. There would be times I would wait for my husband to leave, and I'm looking around to see if there's anyone around, and I just jump on the bed, and start screaming, and cry, and sometimes the tears won't come out, but, this has been extremely hard, but I would not have been able to do it without the people on this task force, and Dr. Meng. you and Mr. Coleman. I mean, we've had... we make a wonderful trio. And I just want to say to you personally, thank you so much for being supportive. You allowed me to call you also in the middle of the night, and... All of you all have received that call, and I just want to say thank you so much. Thank you for reaching out to Georgia Tech and providing this research, documenting thousands and thousands of names of marginalized people who were incarcerated. You all transcribed those names of people, you humanize the individuals, Who are not just... Numbers that make up a tabular data set. So I just want to say thank you for being my friend, for being my partner, and, so I... I just want to say I appreciate you so dearly. Thank you"

Dr. Amanda Meng: There's a lot of joy up here, and... and that's a... that's a real, emotion that we have, but... it was very hard. It was very hard doing this report, working on this report. If I hadn't just driven five and a half hours from St. Simons, I would have bouquets of flowers for you, Madam Chair. I... this would not have happened without your time your sleepless nights, your dreams and nightmares, I mean, your leadership, your dedication. The researchers that you brought on to the team, thank you for... for being such a... a guiding light for us. I do want to say that once you all read the harm report, you will see that Fulton County perpetuated and profited from slavery, and from Jim Crow, from convict labor, from chain gangs. And... the check is too big, honestly. That does not mean that we can't, and that we must still... make efforts for repair, make investment towards repair. There's... all... all the checks should be written, honestly, but we know, you know, we're aware of the realities of... of the county has a lot of checks they're trying to write right now. But I hope that everyone does read, the... the harm report to... to get to know the people, the names, and also see the... how it was quantified. And it's really astounding. It truly is. And, And I, am grateful to... we couldn't have done this without the county, without the county's records, and that's a historic process that's been maintained by people no longer here with us today. But this is... These reparations initiatives, they have to be local, because the data is local, and the people that care about it are local. And I also am grateful to Chairman Pitts and the Commission who have supported this task force and this, effort. And, I'm very committed to what's happening next, even though we're... there's just this relief and joy of where we've gotten. There's still very much a commitment to the recommendations and what's happening next, and Also, are you gonna speak to, Mr. John Wright? I know you have, but just the library... there's a county librarian who has also contributed greatly to this report, and those chapters are an important historical record of the Klan, of convict labor, that I am just so grateful is going to exist for anyone to read and learn about. I mean, as for every chapter, but I just wanted to speak to that a county librarian contributed greatly to this report as well, so... Thank you all.

Chair Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Right, we would not have documented... As well as we have the study about convict labor and... and about terrorist organizations in the county, and the study about Bagley Park without our wonderful librarian, John Wright. And he committed so much of his personal time in order to do this. And we really have, I mean, the resources that we have within the county, the public records, is what was used in order to serve as the foundation for doing this study. The study was primarily based on primary records owned by the county, so it's the county's data. And one of the greatest challenges about the study was having accessibility to those records. Because we had to make some pivots. It led us to a new approach. A better approach, actually, in answering some of our questions, but the records really need to be preserved. But you have... Fulton County has wonderful data. It's a great jewel, and it can make a whole lot of people whole. Just in understanding what became of their family members. And so, I just want to share that. And I'm gonna stop talking.

Mr. Rodney Littles: I'd like to put a motion on the floor for recommendations to the Commission. Prior to stating the motion, I'd like to give some context to it. This journey of reparations is a three-part journey. The first part is truth. The second part is reconciliation. And the third part is repair. We are providing you with the truth. The reconciliation is in the hands of the county commissioners. The repair has to be determined. And that is the context of my motion. I'd like to make a motion that we recommend to the county commissioners to extend the task force for 12 months.

Motion to recommend to the county commissioners to extend the task force for 12 months by Rodney Littles. Seconded by Greg Fann. Motion passes.

Public Comment

Shenbray McFarland

Good evening, everybody. My name is Shen Bray McFarland. I am a teacher, a researcher, genealogist, and a native of Fulton County. My family has resided in Fulton County since the event of emancipation. This is not including temporary displacement brought on by lynchings and riots and urban renewal and gentrification and, you know, so forth. So, for some reason, we just can't leave Fulton County, no matter what happens to us. But, I wanted to mention a few things and ask... so I learned at this task force some time ago, but I went to grad school, so I had to do that and, you know, come back. And so, I was wondering if there were any avenues available for Natives to become involved, particularly if there are any programs, public record, or research initiatives, planned for the future. I'm referring to a... a county-level, or a Fulton County-level, or a county-level program.

Ian Graves

Ian Graves. Yes, I just want to say thank you guys for your work. I came in late, I don't know if you guys went over the report or not. Maybe some of the findings? No, nothing. And I hope that you guys will provide that, soon. Yeah, I think that's a good idea to, extend, but, I don't know how much information that you guys have found. I think it's very important. I think, especially in

the political climate that we're in right now, I think that getting to the heart of, this issue of reparations and the harms, I think will kind of give us a kind of a breakdown of how the development of the political, climate that we're in was developed. And I think that... I don't know if that's in your report, but that will tie. It's very important, but communities as a whole also have a vote. You know, you have the different zones and areas who have representations for certain areas, and they can also be a vote, in a sense, collectively. But with the harms, I think that, freedmen have not really had a chance to build those strong ties to the government from a community point of view, and I think that's... that, that, reparations will not only give us the economic status, but I think it'll also give us a political platform as well, so that we can continue to build strong families and strong... communities, because, you know, we had the convict leasing, we had mass incarceration, and we had the war on drugs, and all those things. All those things kind of took... take away from our ability to build the political apparatus to build the wealth, too, as well. And I think the work that you're doing will help us get on track with being on par with everyone else, because you have immigrants and different people coming in, you know, and it's not... nothing wrong with immigrants, but you see that they also have a political, kind of a political platform that actually rivals those of freedmen, because they have the representation already represented.

Ernest Russell

Good afternoon, can you guys hear me? Alright. Well, I hope you guys are doing well. But just, calling in to let you know that we are listening here online. to... your efforts in Fulton County over these last 4 years, and from what I've heard, is that at this point, an extensive study was done on the harms, and that based on your opinions, those harms definitely Are deserved of some form of compensation, even if Fulton County can't afford such compensation. And, I think it's very important that you guys continue to hold your feet to the fire, but it's important to us who are doing the work on the ground that we don't end up having a whole lot of papers and documents that are just the detailed ideals or the detailed studies that say, yep, we enslaved you, yep, we brutalized you, yep, we did all of this, but yes, just like the past, we are never going to give you true compensation or repair. I would have to say, like a lot of people tell me, it's a waste of time. And that's only if we'll continue the efforts where we're not actually delivering. And so, I would hope that you guys have a few recommendations that you would pass along to the legislature, specifically I would start at advocating for a body to be established on the short-term, mid-term, and long-term basis that allows us to actually provide repair over generations. It's impossible to think that in one or two years, we can provide solutions for decades of history, or maybe I should say centuries of history. And so, with that attitude. I will hope that you guys are willing to get into our corner, because like I said, we watch these things day in and day out. And when it comes to this topic of reparations, we recognize the one thing we're missing at this point in 2025 is solid action, and so, you know, being the first commissions in the South, y'all are setting the standard. And so, if you all could come through and actually provide those recommendations to the Board of Commissioners and legislature, that would be greatly appreciated.

Nette

Yes. Thank you so much. I appreciate, just so you all are aware, we missed you. You know, the last we had heard from you all was September 2024, and that last meeting was not, one of... it

did not end on the best... in the best way that we should. It's been over a year, you're back, we appreciate you. Glad to know that you were actually working behind the scenes, and... and that you were working behind the scenes diligently, day in and day out, and you, formed this, this bond as task force and commissioners. I'd like to, ask that you as the grandchildren of those that were harmed in both Fulton County and in Tulsa, Oklahoma, understand the urgency to work towards repair in the moment now. If you understand the urgency of... if you understand the urgency and you have the harms report. ask that you, with the extension, if provided, that you take full advantage of that one-year extension and put forth some recommendations that will be actionable. One in Fulton County, once in Tulsa. Understand the urgency and the need for repair. Thank you.

Final Comments

Dr. Amanda Meng: I just wanted to acknowledge, Ms. Corbitt and Ms. Jordana Arias for their support. Really appreciate you guys.

Mrs. Jessica Corbitt-Dominguez: Just on behalf of all the staff who have supported this, IT, the police department, and others, and we just want to say thank you for your service. Douglas Bell from our team, thank you for your service. We have all learned a lot from you and appreciate all of your hard work.

Motion to adjourn by Rodney Littles. Seconded by Greg Fann. Motion Passes.