



**Reparations Task Force Meeting  
Thursday, May 2, 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/ltjBPDwVMCNiqWbPEVnlRsHtxmLWcBjPiLboYggHTWMP-1CtFftuJBonz5qoFn0w.2M38z-7Js4GyMrd4>

## **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:** Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, Rodney Littles, Ann Hill Bond, Amanda Meng, Mike Russell, Carole Sykes (online), and Michael Simanga (online). (excused - Elon Butts Osby and Donte' Thompson)

Staff present: Fran Calhoun, Denvall Stewart, Jordana Arias

### **Adoption of May 2, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

Motion by Mr. Rodney Littles motion. Seconded by Mr. Mike Russell. Motion passes.

### **Approval of April 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Mike Russell. Seconded by Mr. Rodney Littles. Motion passes.

### **Old Business**

- Research updates
  - Slavery Research
    - Chair Sims-Alvarado: Researchers are done gathering all of the data.
  - Convict Labor Research

- Secretary Meng: DataWorks team is still scraping and cleaning data from the Georgia Registry of Convicts. A
  - Financial Report
    - Mr. Littles provides an update on statements of revenue and expenses from AUCC. AUCC has not received the 2nd and 3rd disbursement from Fulton County. (AUCC financial report attached at the end of minutes.)
      - Fran Calhoun responds that the issues holding up the disbursements have been identified and the payments should clear by the next Task Force meeting.

## **New Business**

- Invited Guest Speaker: Former State Representative Able Mable Thomas
  - Unable to attend due to health reasons.
  - Vice Chair Coleman: I just want to share a little bit. Let me raise your hand if you've heard of former State Representative Able Mable Thomas, right? Everybody in this room, right? Dear friend of mine, been knowing Mable going on 20 years, one of my mentors. And if you wouldn't think about our elders, it's, you always talk about, you know, a lot of them don't get their flowers until they leave. I've got a lot of love for Mable. Very concerned about Mable. Those of us who know her very well, she is a solid member of the elder guard. And it goes without saying that we're in a changing of the guard time. So that energy and stuff out there for Mable. Mabel's been fighting, I don't know for how many decades for us. So Mable, the honorable great Mable Able Thomas came into office, I believe in the 80s when she beat out Grace Towns Hamilton, first Black female State Representative elected in the southeast of the United States. And so that was really hard for Grace Towns Hamilton to accept losing to Mable Able.
  - Chair Sims-Alvarado: So I'm actually preserving Grace Towns Hamilton's house. And one of the things that I found in the house was a creased article of when Mabel Able beat her. And also, Mable actually advocated for Georgia State to have an African American Studies program. And but she's done some really great things. So yeah, but thank you for mentioning her and inviting her to come speak. All right, time announcements. I keep forgetting to add that to the agenda. Yes. Announcements?
- Announcements:
  - Mr. Mike Russell: So the last time we were here, we went to the Town Hall in North Fulton. Thank you. Thank you. And I received an email, which I've been looking for. I cannot find it. I want to give it to our researcher tonight. But there

were some issues about a graveyard in North Fulton that apparently has the remains of enslaved people. And they wanted some help in trying to research and connect those living relatives with their hospital relatives in the graveyard. So I was going to give that to our researcher tonight. But I will find the email and I will forward it to the group. And because I don't think I have his particular email. But they asked me to and I just want I know probably some of them are watching. I don't want them to think that I blew them off. But they did ask me to do that. And I'll get the information to our researcher.

- Chair Sims-Alvarado: Great. Thank you. And whenever you find abandoned slave cemeteries, Black cemeteries, that means that there was a whole community there before and a church. And so it begs the question, what happened to those communities? And the the deceased are in a sense are markers that we were once in those communities. And it begs the question of what happened to the Black community. And but I would love to receive that information. I've shared with the researchers as well. Certainly hear more information about cemeteries. Are they formerly a slave? Or do you know? Do you know how old the oldest tombstone is?
  - Mr. Russell: I don't know. They sent me it was in an email. And it did have the name what they thought the name of the original cemetery was. But unfortunately, I cannot find it right now. But it had some detail enough detail, I think that the researchers could pick up on it and probably find out and answer some of the questions. So that alone made it productive to go up there last couple of weeks ago.
  - Chair Sims-Alvarado: Okay, great. Do you remember the community in North Fulton?
  - Mike Russell: I do not.
  - Chair Sims-Alvarado: Okay, alright, great. Alright, look forward to receiving it. Alright, thank you. Any announcements?
- Vice Chair Coleman: Let me thank you, Madam Chair, for your participation in the reparations discussion over at The Gathering Spot. Like to thank Brother Ryan Wilson, co owner of The Gathering Spot for opening up his his establishment for this much, much needed conversation. We had the chairman from the state of Illinois Commission reparations Commission Marvin Slaughter. And we, you know, we had a nice, nice crowd out there. So again, I really appreciate you for that, Madam Chair. I want to shout out real quick to Brother Derrick Boazman from WAOK, but also from Let Us Make Man. I'm actually missing my wife and my son are at their scholarship awards banquet. And I'm really thankful for the brothers for my family to be able to, by way of my little man to be able to take place in that. And not just thanking him for that, but Derrick Boazman is the only local radio host that has even bothered to air the work that we're doing here when he

had Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Dr. Meng and myself on. So shout out to the brothers, Derrick Boazman, Mawuli Davis, the professor, and others. In closing, I say that because you hear me say all the time, this is so important to me. I've gotten over looking at these empty seats. That's just, that's just gonna be what it's gonna be. But I must say, I've had the opportunity to sit in on some sessions with this dynamic team that's been put together. And we are literally, dotting every eye and crossing every T. They say measure twice cut once. I think we measured three times. At the end of this year, we're going to rock not just this county, but this nation. So with that, I will say this. It's election season. And it's messy here in Fulton County. That mess or that political mess has the potential to affect this board. Now, people can obviously support whoever they would like to support. But it's odd to have a task force member calling for the heads of two Black commissioners that sit in his seat that would literally take out the chair in the vice chair. So in complete closing, I'll just be glad when brother Russell tells us what his real agenda is on this task force and at a press conference, I'm sure you can probably expound, at an official press conference in the capital. And again, we can call we can have political differences and support whoever we want to support. But I can't stand, Madam Chair, that party politics BS. It gets in the way of real work. And so what it appears to be is that there's a Republican hit job on certain commissioners. And again, it would affect what we are going to do when we lay out all of this work that we've been doing for so long, prior to the study, let alone the suggestions in the form of political policy changes that the commissioners would have to adopt and vote, and it'd be voted upon. It just seems like a very skillful, but translucent political play to try to derail this work. And with that, I will yield.

- Mike Russell: I think that was totally uncalled for, and I would say if someone has a question about my motives, I would ask that they speak to me privately first, and we can discuss that like adults in a civil manner. Since the matter was brought up, I will address it, although I don't think it's actually appropriate for this body. I did attend a press conference this week with an individual who's been stalked for six years, and the county has failed to properly prosecute the person that has stalked her and her two children. That individual is also currently running for office in the local election for state house. So I stood with her and other victims of crime to say that I stood with them and that we need to have a prosecutor that will take stalking seriously. So I'm not going to back down from that. What political party they belong to doesn't matter to me. What matters is it was a woman who's been stalked for six years, and the case has not been prosecuted. So she has been granted permission to sue in state court to force what has happened, along with the fact that there's a recording that ... [audio goes out and could not be transcribed].
- Vice Chair Coleman: I'm not speaking about the DA. I'm speaking about the commissioners.
- Mr. Russell: I'm not finished. I let you talk. I didn't interrupt you. You talked about a press conference. That's the press conference I was at. So with the commissioners, again, doesn't matter to me political party. It matters about ethics and commitment to my community. So one of those commissioners in my view stalked her employee who was her chief of staff that she hired after she met him for, I think it was 30 minutes in the

furniture store. And they engaged in the sexual relationship that included acts in this building. And because of her stalking him, she placed three, not one, not two, but three tracking devices in his vehicles. And because of that, she was found guilty of sexual harassment, which cost the taxpayers of Fulton County a million dollars. That's why I'm asking for her removal from the commission. So if anybody's watched me come down here on Wednesdays to call people out, I've called out Commissioner Khadija for what I thought she did was wrong. But as I said this Wednesday, when I called her and said the seniors in my neighborhood need help, her only response to me was, where would you like to meet and when to talk about it? And we talked about it in everything that Vice Chair Khadija promised me and promised my community she has done. And so I was man enough to stand at that same podium and say despite our differences, despite me calling her out in public for things that I didn't appreciate that she had done, I also stood there and said I appreciate the fact that we were able to put that behind us and do something for the seniors in our neighborhood whose homes are literally, literally falling apart. So I don't take that back. As far as the color of people's skin, I don't judge people by the color of skin, I judge them by their character. When you cost the taxpayers of Fulton County a million dollars because of your malfeasance and your personal acts, I think you need to be called to account. For the sheriff, if you're just talking about that, I voted for Sheriff Labat the last time. I know his wife and despite that fact, I think what has happened in our jail is unacceptable and I'm supporting somebody else for that office. Oh, by the way, who often also happens to be Black. And in fact, the folks who are running against Ms. Hall also happen to be Black. So I don't know what color has to do with anything. They're all of the same party. So I don't know what party has to do with anything. But the person who appointed me is a Hispanic American. I don't think that has anything to do with it. But everybody's entitled to their opinion. But I would ask that we do so when we express our opinions, we do so in a civil manner. And like I said, I'm open to dialogue with anybody. We don't have to put on a show here in front of the audience. We can talk about this one-on-one as individuals.

- Vice Chair Coleman: I choose to speak about it in front of the public, brother, because I don't trust you.
- Mike Russell: Well, that's your opinion. Period. That's your opinion. And you know what, the great thing about America is, this country that I defended for 28 years, is that you have the right to express your opinion in public and not have to worry about it. That's the greatness of America, the country that I love and serve. So I don't back down.
- Fran Calhoun: Point of order, Madam Chair.
- Chair Sims-Alvarado: Yes, I'm going to move on to public comments.
- Vice Chair Coleman: For the record, we should have been done a point of order, because I was specifically only talking about what affects us here, the commissioners. I wasn't talking about the sheriff, and I wasn't talking about the DA. So there's a lot of bloviating going on. I was speaking about how it affects us directly here in the election.

## Public Comments

Marquis James

My name is Marquis James. I'm an Atlanta native, a Grady baby. I'm currently an associate broker here at Keller Williams, and I'm a part of a group called American Descendants of Slavery. I strongly support the reparations movement that you guys have started to do as far as your task force and everything. I come here really paying homage to my ancestors. My family and whatnot that raised me here. And out of respect for the veterans, the years and the time that they served in our military fighting for this great country that we built hands on. I encourage you guys to be vigilant. You're going to have some opposition as we've had in our group, publicly and privately. I have teammates as well that support this movement. We really have to really be thankful for the opportunity to have an opportunity to be heard. For us, a lot of times, it was really just a form of prayer. We were talking to ourselves for a long period of time, but now we actually have an audience. We pray that God will hear us. In my estimation, we are the truest sense of America in that we built it from day one with the truest sense of the realest of Americans. And just really, this is mostly out of respect for them. There were some great people, some loving people, some very strong-willed, pioneering people that really built this country. And we are beyond deserving of your efforts and representation of us in that manner. So I encourage you guys to go forth with it and anything that I can do as a local resident. I'm signing up. You got my email address there. And good luck to you. Thank you so much, sir.

Arthur Cole

I guess I appear to be one of those pesky elders that shows up from time to time. Please state your name. My name is Arthur Cole, C-O-L-E. I'm a resident of East Point, Georgia. I at one point in time worked in the planning department here in Fulton County. I've worked in city government under, in the mayor's office under, actually, Maynard Jackson. And then much later under Shirley Franklin and then under Cassim Reed in the mayor's office. So I've had a variety of responsibilities. I retired from the city of Atlanta in 2016. And I'm here this afternoon to just, I'm really just doing fact finding. I have become, I've gone from being a reparations skeptic to becoming reparations zealot. So when I was a much younger man, there was a, and Bill Clinton was the president at that time. Bill Clinton was asked to apologize for slavery. And at that point in time, I don't believe that a formal apology was ever issued by the United States government. And at that point in time, we can't even get an apology. How are we going

to get reparations? But what has transformed my thinking basically has been kind of an accidental education process. I always was fascinated by having cousins that lived in New York and Washington and Philadelphia. And I lived up from Greensboro, North Carolina. And so the results of the Great Migration always were kind of fascinating to me. And I eventually read *The Warmth of Other Sons*. There's two books basically that have kind of transformed my viewpoint. *Warmth of Other Sons* and the 1619 Project. *The Warmth of Other Sons* brought home to me the point that I was not, that history was alive. I was walking around in history where I lived, where my grandparents lived, my cousins lived. All of that was a result of things that happened in the past, but things that continue to have an effect on the way society operates. So I did read *The Warmth of Other Sons* and I was delighted. I was also horrified. And then I started looking at YouTube things, talking about the 1619 Project. I have a lot of thoughts about this whole subject area. But basically, when I said that we're living in history, that kind of shapes so much of what we see day to day. And so the idea that African Americans should be compensated for what happened 150 years ago. How when was it centuries ago is is legitimate, but for me the more compelling reason to be about supportive of reparations what's going on right now today. So, for example, one of the things that people continuously bring up about reparations is how you're going to pay for it. I'm going to pay for it. We got the money how we're going to pay for it how we're going to pay for it. And so, an idea that came to me is that if you have observed the national kind of approach to cannabis products, it's gone from, you know, it's, it's drugs, it's it's crime it's it's horrible to big business. And one of my ideas is that the burgeoning cannabis industry could be an actor in popularizing educating people about the the idea of reparations. For me, like I said, it's kind of like a educational process. I didn't know, for example, that the Jews had gotten reparations. I didn't know that. I didn't know that Haiti is still paying reparations to France. I didn't know that. And so, the prison industrial complex that kind of came into being in the 80s. It's kind of an artifact of the same kind of racism that has led to, you know, a situation where generations of young people don't have fathers because they were locked up. And so, the idea of repair has to do with recognizing just kind of what today's reality is. And so, one idea I had was to for there to be a cannabis tax. And so, the cannabis tax proceeds could be dedicated. First of all, it's two things that all the people in jail for marijuana crimes out now, use the bird, use the cannabis tax to make them whole. That means income that means counseling that means help their families. And that's really just kind of one application of the idea that there are things that could be done now to affect people's lives now. There are resources that are available that primarily are going to people who

are making money, rather than people who are concerned about the nature of our society. So, like I said, I could go on and on. But the other idea is that I believe in terms of I just discovered this commission, like about two weeks ago. So I've been kind of like trying to read up on the minutes and stuff like that. So, so one idea that I had was, since the political dimension is so much to determine the way things happen, and that of course we're we're in one of the most momentous kinds of political situations, electoral politics that we've been in in many years. So I'm thinking that if people are properly educated about reparations and if reparations are different implications of what happened centuries ago and what happens now. If that can somehow be people get become educated and actually, you know, there's there's all kinds of things happening at an individual level at group levels groups such as these. So, there's a lot that I would like to see happen naturally and I don't even know very much about this subject but I would like to be in a position to support this body. Kind of, to me, America, Atlanta is the capital of Black America. And the Atlanta University Center is one of the oldest and most respected scholarly institutions. My one idea I have is that there ought to be a reparations conference hosted by the Clark Atlanta University, a symposium to kind of elucidate, you know, a lot of the different aspects of this whole issue. Now I'm just going to read the topic areas I was thinking about and then I'm going to sit down I promise. The topic areas are such a symposium could be solidifying the intellectual and economic basis for reparations. Another topic, a 20 year reparations plan. Environmental repair. Homelessness income inequality create businesses and jobs using reparations as the method demonstrates doing the right thing can create jobs better than doing the wrong thing. Reparations as an economic stimulus which is what I just talked about as far as the cannabis tax. It's freeing and restoring marijuana prisoners or people released for that reason. Black political unity role of the Black church and Black politics 1619 project some of the California reparations Task Force report, building on getting it wrong. Using Black political power. I believe this should be a Black pack. And then there ought to be a way for people to contribute to Black political causes through an application you can get a pizza, easy as pie with with an app. You should be able to support the political candidate of your choice. Just by using your app. All right, so that I appreciate you all so much for making me feel welcome. Thank you. I'll be back. Thank you and look forward to seeing you next month.

(Note: A motion was made by Vice Chair Marcus Coleman to extend the time for Arthur Cole. Seconded by Mr.Littles. Motion passed.)

Larry Riley



My name is Larry Riley, Southwest Atlanta resident. Actually born here, Crawford Long Hospital. I am a member of the new group, American Descendants of Slavery Advocacy, Adox Advocacy Foundation. And I come here to say I support this task force. Anything, any way our organization can help let us know. But I think it's sad. The whole Fortin County can't lead in this way. What I think is sad, this whole reparations thing is, this country as a whole is not keeping count of the American Descendants of Slavery. This is in America, the 1960s, 70s, even the 80s, even the 90s, you know, if you live in Atlanta, Georgia, in the 70s, 80s, 90s, immigration levels was not very high. If it was a Black person, nine times out of 10, they were American Descendants of Slavery. And so what I want Fortin County to do is set the presidents, not California, you're doing something similar. But at least we definitely want reparations, support reparations, eventually get it a national level where Fortin County can at least keep the count. What I mean by that on government applications and things like that, I'm hoping eventually educational institutions can at least get to the point where we have our own categories on these applications for jobs, applications for education type things where we can actually see at least keep a count of how we are doing. So what happens when you don't keep a count of us, we kind of get mixed in with the recent immigration population, you can't really measure how good, how bad we're doing, how far we came. So, you know, if anything we get anything out of this, you know, you know, I'm always wanting to check, but if anything, if you can at least create a category on government forms that says ADOS for American Descendants of Slavery, if you say African-American, somebody come over here from Africa, Caribbean, can check that box. If you say Black American, somebody anybody from another country can check that box. I think ADOS is perfect because it clearly states, you know, nobody, I mean, they can lie, but nobody can, you know, really kind of shoehorn their way in that. So keep doing up the good work. Anything we can do as an organization, we definitely can help, but just please give us a distinct category in Fulton County. Thank you.

Henry Heard

My name is Henry Heard. Thank you for having this task force. This is my first time being here. Just got off work. I've been in Georgia since 2019. Originally I'm from North Carolina and live in Virginia. I mean, I agree with reparations. However, I do not believe. I agree with what Larry just said. Also part of the ADS advocacy advocacy foundation here in Georgia. I agree with what Larry said. I do not believe that the state level essentially would have enough resources to press reparations on the national level. However, I do believe that at least a president's precedence needs to be set on the state level.

I also believe that maybe one of the most important things that needs to happen on the state level is disaggregation. So we can have a good representation. We can have a good category or maybe even a license and IDs for the anybody that is ADOS, so that we can have a good representation and have account and that we know who is an American descendant of slavery and who is not so that we can have proper categorization, and that we can have data within whenever we collect data on any institution from jobs and education and whatnot. I do believe that this is important. I'm from affirmation for this. And that's pretty much it. I'm sorry I'm a little bit nervous, but no, thank you.

Anqous Cosby

My name is Anqous Cosby with reparationspush.com. I'd like to say to the task force I appreciate the work y'all do. Thank you faces. Coleman. I think I did a zoom call with yourself. But to everybody. I really takes a lot to keep doing this keep doing this being in being here when the crowd can get only when there's cameras, there's people here, you know, but I think that's like everything else in life. Listen into a few of your zoom calls in the past. I really missed a lot of that today because I went to the wrong building. And they sent me over here. But um, in the experience I've had with dealing with trying to get a bill passed at the state level with representative Bruce. I think it was House bill 955. In that experience I've had I've seen where the roadblocks exist. And I don't hear a lot of people talking about that and at some point that bridge has to be crossed. As the descendants of slavery, we would have been had reparations if it was up to the grassroots. But it is the political class and the elected officials we have that have subverted this. Some of them by being quiet and some of them overtly by making sure they don't bring it and let it, you know, use the the rules that exist to make sure it gets where it should get. I want to say about Representative Pitts. It was a disgrace for Representative Pitts to be on channel two. And to say that if they do pass one that's based upon cash. He himself would be against it. So I confronted him about that when I seen him. Outside of, you know, his comfort zone. And I said so you telling me that you're against everything you drive on everything you see was built by Black people. Literally if it's 75 years or older there was there's actually Black hand prints on it. You got a problem with Black people who are the only group of people in this country while they're shipping a millions of people with the only group left behind with the only group that there's nothing carved out and allocated to us. It's all by designation. Yeah, I would be against that. I'll be against that when we're doing a lot of things. I'll be against that. So what's your logic? I'm just against it. I'm just against it. I said now you

said me some years you're old so you don't see some stuff where you from. What's your logic? I'm just I'm just against I might be for I said so you telling me you be gifts. We give money to the Jews to the Jews. We give money to that group we give money to the Native Americans. So you will be against giving them cash payment now you see that big deal we just signed about \$100 billion on top of the billions we we've done over over time that they just did recently. He said yeah I'll be I'll be against that I want to hear him stand up in front of everybody this election you say I'll be against giving money to the Jews and to the because we got to clear that out. You say they are for us and are covertly and even bold enough to be overtly they need to be out of office. Never ever ever to represent us again ever ever go get a job at quick trip or racetrack or just retire who care. Why would we have a Black face. We going to hell in real time. You can drive around just this city. Young boys that have been victims of a systematic racism. They kill as if it's a sport. Not because they want to. Some of them for survival. Some of them because they're so caught up in the neighborhood they're in. They don't know any other way to exist. I think there would be some if this is white boys getting killed. Like we hear on the rap songs every day if this was if this was kill every Jewish person kill every white person. What do you think? What do you think the governor would be having a meeting about that. Of course he would. It's only Black blood that's inexpensive; everybody else's blood got a price to it. That's expensive enough. Because we're the only blood that built something. We didn't get a chance to get a part of the land grant college in the land lottery that happened right here in Georgia with this language standard where they separated all the land by acres and gave it to those so-called settlers that came here with the only group. So what you all doing is paramount. It's righteous. It's godly. It's holy. Because you can save a lot of people from jail and a whole bunch of people from hell. Because money answers all things. You've got to be able to live in a capitalistic society. You've got to be able to use some money and we've contributed if we never did a day's work again. We paid for somebody's grandchildren grandchildren grandchildren. And I don't think nobody pays attention to that. So I want to say that I just want to bring attention to the leadership. They need to never be in office again. I'm Anques Osby for Reparations Push. Appreciate y'all, love y'all. Thank you.

Kwesi Jumoke Ifetayo (online)

Greetings, I just want to on record as attending this meeting as a leader with N'COBRA. One moniker that N'COBRA put forward was Descendants of Africans Enslaved in the US (DAEUS)

**Adjourn**

**AUCC**

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - SRE Fulton Co Reparations Taskforce

ADM - Administration

925 - Fulton Co Reparations Task Force Project

1 - Operating Fund

From 7/1/2023 Through 4/30/2024

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue			
Grants	<u>0.00</u>	<u>210,000.00</u>	<u>210,000.00</u>
Total Revenue	<u>0.00</u>	<u>210,000.00</u>	<u>210,000.00</u>
Expense			
Consulting	57,142.88	0.00	57,142.88
Transportation	79.59	0.00	79.59
Indirect Expenses	<u>7,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,000.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>64,222.47</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>64,222.47</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	<u>(64,222.47)</u>	<u>210,000.00</u>	<u>145,777.53</u>
Ending Net Assets	<u>(64,222.47)</u>	<u>210,000.00</u>	<u>145,777.53</u>