

**Fulton County Reparations Task Force**  
**Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6 p.m.**

**Recording:** [https://zoom.us/rec/share/IY\\_YnryGGJgsvVsktmeBdC3m72bYnmM4-0PzdR8Rbg3y4KwmcVW\\_kfAocEvFbI-z.\\_jd5RZbOIUySqRID](https://zoom.us/rec/share/IY_YnryGGJgsvVsktmeBdC3m72bYnmM4-0PzdR8Rbg3y4KwmcVW_kfAocEvFbI-z._jd5RZbOIUySqRID)

**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\*\*

- **Present:** Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado; Marcus Coleman; Shanti Vissa; Elon Osby; Tamika Jackson; South Fulton Mayor Khalid Kamau
- **Absent:**
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs); Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs); Derval Stewart (County Attorney); Olivia Reneau (Research Fellow)

**Adoption of December 1, 2022 Agenda**

- Tamika Jackson motioned to approve the December 1, 2022 meeting agenda. Mayor Khalid Kamau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of November 3, 2022 Minutes**

- Marcus Coleman motioned to approve the November 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Shanti Vissa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

Mayor Khalid Kamau

- How will the meetings happen moving forward: in-person and subcommittees? Suggested using North Fulton Annex and South Fulton Annex for meeting locations.
  - Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Unsure of meeting location but would like to meet all members in-person soon. Members must consider traffic when planning meetings at County locations.
  - Fran Calhoun: Task forces that have County-wide appointments rotate locations for meetings. Suggested using library rooms for meeting locations.
- Would like meetings to be placed on YouTube to allow public engagement.

Derval Stewart

- Is the Fulton County lab available in the government center for meetings?
  - Fran Calhoun: Must check dates and times of availability. External Affairs might be able to secure parking for task force members; libraries will have free parking.
  - Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Members should consider locations with adequate parking when planning meetings.

**New Business**

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## 1. Research Update – Olivia Reneau and John Wright

- Highlights:
  - Piney Grove is a similar location to Bagley Park that has been identified for research.
  - Sent memo to Chair and Vice-Chair on possibly using genetic testing for reparations eligibility. Found evidence that genetic heritage testing might be positive among black people. Cautioned genetic testing at the commercial testing is highly variable.
  - Will send shorter memos to task force members on various research topics based on feedback.
  - Will try to get a first draft of the end of the year report to task force members as soon as possible.

### *Discussion*

#### Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- How many persons of African decent in Fulton County? Listed concerns with ancestry being determined by geography.
  - Fran Calhoun: Will have to pull data from 2020 Census and provide in follow-up.
  - Olivia Reneau: Used previous Census data for memo and placed additional statistics in the chat.
- Eligibility and costs came up in a previous meeting and that is why Olivia wanted to research potential genetic testing costs. Would like residents to know who they descended from
  - Olivia Reneau: Using the black adult population, the cost would be \$15 million without administrative costs.

#### Mayor Khalid Kamau

- Provided examples of how politics can take over discussions on reparations. Believes the task force needs to calculate the bill for reparations first before debating over distributions which may block progress. Suggested task force stay focused on what does Fulton County owe slave descendants?

#### Elon Osby

- First item to focus on should be to determine the who. Once that is identified, checks might be sent to those descendants. Examples included Bagley Park and Piney Grove.
  - Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: The resolution speaks to eligibility which is why Commissioners were invited to the meeting.
  - Olivia Reneau: Agrees that logistics are strategically used to hamper reparations. As a reminder, fellowship will expire and suggested research decisions should be prioritized. Would like to complete more research in her limited time with the task force.

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### 2. End of Year Report for Task Force

#### Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- Need to establish relationships with Commissioners and have meetings in January 2023 to gain feedback. Believes the end of the year report should be complete by February 2023. Once publication is complete, share with media to gain support.
- Task force needs access to records that the County hold such as the County Code of Ordinances. The library system has been helpful but does not have all the required materials.
  - Denval Stewart: Current Fulton County codes are on [Municode](#) and can be accessed online. Will need to contact Clerk to the Commission to try to obtain historical codes. Suggested setting up a meeting between Olivia and Clerk next week.
- How can task force gain access to vital records? Frank Walton was murdered during 1906 race riots; death records should be with Fulton County. Fulton County Vital Records would charge \$25 for these records. Offered to meet with Denval at the administrative building next week.
  - Olivia Reneau: September death certificates during the 1906 race riots have not been found after reaching out to relevant Fulton County, City of Atlanta, and State of Georgia offices.
  - Denval Stewart: Has not looked at the issue yet but must check with Vital Records to determine if there are exceptions for payment. The task force is not a County agency and might still have to pay for records.
- Having access to other records would be helpful. Provided examples of deaths due to eating dirt that should be available in digital format by the County according to an article found during research.
  - Denval Stewart: Will talk offline with Chair and Olivia to determine where the needed documents are kept and if there are rules that require payment.
- Slavery had a global impact and numerous countries were involved. Three largest companies to ever exist in our history have connections to slavery.
- Framework provided on agenda is an overview of items within the report to show County responsibilities over time. In each time period, would like the task force to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.
- If there is a budget, where would the funds come from?

#### Mayor Khalid Kamau

- Committees should be formed and people from the community can be helpful with research. Suggested two committees: Research and Public Relations. As the public becomes more engaged, must make a positive case for reparations to gain support.

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Marcus Coleman

- Have not heard from newly appointed member, Tamika Jackson. Would like a formal introduction.
- Townhalls are a good idea and will allow the public to provide insight before presenting a report to the Board of Commissioners. Suggested inviting community experts and hosting the meeting at a college such as Morris Brown. Publications could include radio and television announcements.
- Cautions members to stop worrying about the costs right now. Believes a realistic budget will be established at the right time.
- Would like to stop having virtual meetings to increase exposure and help the task force reach tangible results. Believes people in power should help build momentum.
  - Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Proposal will not be a single recommendation and perhaps this first report can be a preliminary study that shows Bagley Park as a case study. Commissioners who support the task force will need to provide a budget and further engagement. Restitution examples can be provided by residents.
  - Olivia Reneau: Larger scope will require more manpower and funds. An allocated budget and more tools provided the County will be necessary. Agrees Bagley Park is a good case study.
- The vote for this task force was 4-2-1 by the Board of Commissioners. Would like to know why the Commissioners voted this way and other concerns can be discussed during a townhall.
  - Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Would like to create a blueprint for any County to be able to create a similar task force including payment for restitution.
- The City of South Fulton has the only reparations legislation in the state. Please provide more information.
  - Mayor Khalid Kamau: City of South Fulton's legislation is to establish a task force to study reparations. Suggested the following recommendations be given to the County: Social Media, 2023 meetings hosted in-person at County facilities, and presence on Fulton County's YouTube page.
  - Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado: Will send out an email before the next meeting to all members regarding committees.

Fran Calhoun

- First meeting of task force was in October 2021 so the end of year report is due as soon as possible. If additional time is needed, then February 2023 due date will be shared with leadership.

*Discussion*

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

- What is the month the Board of Commissioners determine the budget?

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- Fran Calhoun: Budget is voted on in January every year at the second Board of Commissioners meeting. Departments start sending recommendations in October. Commissioners will need to set up discretionary funds for the task force; funding would not come out of a department's budget. The millage rate has been decreased and there are budget gaps expected for next year. Please keep this in mind when making budget requests. The task force should look at cost neutral suggestions.
- Did we get a response from Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Arrington on attending this meeting?
  - Fran Calhoun: Commissioner Arrington had a scheduling conflict. Did not hear back from Commissioner Hall's team but sent meeting invitation.

**Public Comments**

- *Chat attached*
  - Marcus Coleman disagrees with chat comment that said reparations cannot be achieved at the local level. Believes every branch of government should use political capital to achieve reparations even if the federal government has not yet.

**Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

18:07:04 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
I'm not in my usual location due to the accident so I will be camera off!

18:08:44 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To All Panelists:  
OMG I'm so sorry. 🙏

18:09:19 From Tamika Jackson To All Panelists:  
Prayers for a speedy recovery for you and your roommate!

18:11:31 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To All Panelists:  
Mayor khalid: 2nd

18:12:43 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
Thank you all so much for your kind words!

18:13:39 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To All Panelists:  
Aye

18:19:45 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To All Panelists:  
I need reparations for Atlanta traffic.

18:21:56 From Rico Dollar To Everyone:  
Hello Everyone.

18:22:13 From Fran Calhoun To Everyone:  
Thank you for the test, Rico.

18:29:27 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To All Panelists:  
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fultoncountygeorgia>

18:30:34 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
476205 approx. if the given data is tabulated

18:31:38 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
Using the v2019 census data, there are at least 154,741 Black individuals above the age of 19

18:31:43 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
in Fulton County

18:31:54 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2019 (CC-EST2019-ALLDATA)

18:44:54 From Fran Calhoun To Wykeisha Howe Community Champion (she/her) and All Panelists:  
Attendees: Please feel free to test the chat.

18:45:13 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
That's great news to me!

18:46:35 From Ray Jones To Everyone:  
Lineage and family tree can be traced for free through a free trial on Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org.

18:47:38 From Juliette Rankins To Everyone:  
Ray Jones, That's a great idea.

18:48:09 From Larry Riley To Everyone:  
DNA test is not the way to go, it'll be thrown out of court. All black people should not be eligible, only the Descendants of the victims.

18:50:55 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:  
I'll make a note to shoot you an email, Denva!

18:51:44 From Adolphus Armstrong To Everyone:  
Eligibility is the key to determine the scope for everything. Genetic genealogy should be used to help identify impacted family networks. The databases have grown large enough to start to identify general communities. The vast majority of municipal records have not been digitized.

18:54:10 From Larry Riley To Everyone:

Fulton County does not have the capacity to properly do reparations. This is a Federal effort. Instead of doing these bad piece meal so called reparations vanity projects. The county should pressure the Federal Government for Reparations for all the Descendants of US Chattel Slavery.

18:57:23 From Adolphus Armstrong To Everyone:

Genealogists fought against the recent changes that have made access to death certificates difficult. The \$25 fee applies to everyone. At best, you would have to access the Georgia Virtual Vault.

19:01:58 From Tamika Jackson To All Panelists:

Unfortunately I need to drop as I have another commitment this evening.

19:02:05 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:

I can do a lot from a far but unfortunately little in person

19:04:03 From Tamika Jackson To All Panelists:

Its nice to informally meet you as well. I would like to touch base with you after the meeting to offer my assistance to you while you are recovering. I will email you over the weekend.

19:06:54 From Larry Riley To Everyone:

Instead of blowing millions on DNA tests. Fulton County should invest in educating black Americans in Fulton County on how to trace back their family tree. Their needs to be Family Tree classes in libraries, high schools, colleges, and black churches.

19:10:15 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:

Can mrs. visa be elevated to host again? Looks like she is an attendee

19:12:24 From Shanti Vissa To All Panelists:

Thank you Olivia

19:12:47 From Olivia Reneau To All Panelists:

Of course!

19:13:21 From McKenzie Bailey, CxO To All Panelists:

I would like to be a part of the research committee

19:15:43 From Marquis James To All Panelists:

I support the nomination of Morris Brown College as well 🙏

19:16:10 From Adolphus Armstrong To Everyone:

If the scope is not lineage based, it will not work. See the recent SCOTUS affirmative action arguments. Wealth was extracted generation after generation from a specific group of people.

19:18:12 From Juliette Rankins To Everyone:

Adolphus Armstrong, I agree those people are the Descendants of Slaves as mentioned by SCOTUS.

19:18:26 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To Everyone:

I agree. We can make graphics of that data and start sharing it on Social Media

19:18:32 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To Everyone:

We need Social Media

19:23:50 From william dickens To All Panelists:

Reparation can not be done at a local level it can only be done at a federal level. Check out our website to learn more ADOSFOUNDATION.ORG

19:25:08 From Adolphus Armstrong To Everyone:

Ultimately, you are working towards making whole the only group of people whose government was weaponized against them specifically generation after generation. Follow the wealth extraction and how the state and local government benefitted.

19:34:36 From Adolphus Armstrong To Everyone:

Mr. Coleman's audio is going in and out

19:35:07 From Glenda c To All Panelists:

What are the privacy ramifications on discussing individuals personal information

19:35:18 From Larry Riley To Everyone:

I understand wanting to do something locally, you can still do something locally but remove the word reparations.

19:36:17 From Simeon Harris To Everyone:

It is definitely necessary to work on all levels of government. It just isn't Reparations, locally.

19:36:25 From Mayor khalid @khalidCaresUSA To All Panelists:

I need to drop in a few minutes.

19:36:45 From Larry Riley To Everyone:

Evanston, IL for example, is not reparations, it's a housing program