

# Reparations Taskforce Meeting Minutes July 20, 2023 - 6 pm Zoom Link:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/S4\_zqayPDIGp6cpfwj2TUJzq\_el6F2nyrB4eo5AGWBfDLIGRo7wggvS7Q1PpwL dJ.cMBHIBShslfcOyUs

# **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\*\*

**Members Present**: Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, Rodney Littles, Elon Osby, Michael Simanga, Mike Russell, Donte' Thompson, Amanda Meng

Staff Present: Jasmine Campbell, Jessica Corbittt, Denval Stewart

### **Meeting Opening:**

- New Taskforce member, Donte' Thompson welcomed
- Dr. Bernice King's absence is excused
- Quorum is established and roll call is taken.
- Adoption of the agenda of July 20th meeting agenda at approximately 7:13 PM. Motioned by Mr. Littles. Seconded by Donte' Thompson. Motion passed.

### Old Business:

- AUCC contract was approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in their July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - Attorney Stewart explains that the motion passed with the stipulation that further clarification on what deliverables the AUCC is responsible for and who is responsible for those deliverables
  - Chair explains that the AUCC's responsibility is to by the fiscal agent and contract researchers to carry out the work of the empirical study. The Taskforce will outline the research activities and deliverables for the individuals who are contracted to do the work.

- The AUCC Data Science Initiative will assist in identifying researchers skilled in quantitative methods and gathering quantitative data
- Mr. Littles provides spelling and grammatical edits.
- The next step is to meet with Attorney Stewart to flesh out the details needed.
- Bylaws Changes: Public Comments Rules
  - Discussion begins with Vice Chair Coleman asking for clarity on why the first inperson taskforce meeting was pushed from August to September.
    - Ms. Campbell and Ms. Corbitt explain that the taskforce needs time to amend the bylaws so that they specify guidelines for in-person meetings and for public comment. You need 14 days to make an amendment to the bylaws. Additionally, the county needs to make sure they have the building properly staffed and secure.
  - o Discussion amongst the members regarding public comment guidelines
    - There is a draft of the public comment rules in a google doc with suggestions from Dr. Meng and Mr. Littles
    - Mr. Russel reminds the taskforce of his suggestion that placards and signs also not be permitted. Which is standard procedure for the BOC.
    - Mr. Thompson needs to be provided access to the document
    - Discussion of time limit
      - Question of public comment period includes submitted questions and written comments or if those are read after the period of public comment.
      - Vice Chair Coleman explains his perspective on the 30-minute cap being too short of time because the topic of reparations is historic and charged and recommends there be no cap
        - Several other members make comments in favor of the cap
      - County representatives explain that
        - $\circ \ \$  you can always motion to extend public comment
        - in-person meetings to have to end by 8:00pm because the departments working to support the in-person meetings have been told the meetings are from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.
    - Ms. Campbell explains that if the public comment bylaws are discussed and voted on in the August meeting, then there will be enough time for the September meeting to be in person. She also suggests a survey of the member's preferences on public comment be conducted.
    - The discussion and vote is tabled for the next meeting in August.
- Bylaw Changes: Media Relations
  - Chair Dr. Sims-Alvarado drafted language for a media relation bylaw, which was circulated to the taskforce earlier in the day by Ms. Campbell.

- The bylaw draft states that all media requests be directed to the Chair and Vice Chair when necessary and would allow the Chair and Vice Chair to appoint taskforce members to serve as a media spokesperson
- Attorney Stewart explains there is a need to balance the smooth and orderly operation of media relations with taskforce members' 1st Amendment rights. Nothing can stop the media from approaching any member to talk about their participation in the taskforce. However, that person may be directed to say that they are not the official spokesperson for the taskforce and what they are saying is not official
- Several task members explain their approach to responding or not responding to media inquiry
- Vice Chair Coleman suggests providing boiler plate language for that person to say, I am speaking in my capacity as an individual member and not on behalf of the taskforce as a whole or on behalf of Fulton County government.
- Ms. Campbell remarks that some media or general public inquiry could be answered with an FAQ that has been discussed previously
- Mr. Thompson asks if the Chair and Vice Chair will consult the taskforce as a whole as to who is appointed to speak to media.
  - Vice Chair Coleman explains that the Chair and Vice Chair will be the primary ones to make the decision and that this is common across organizations.
- Mr. Russell takes time to explain his position on why he is on the taskforce in light of a recent media story he was interviewed in.
- Mr. Littles and Chair Dr. Sims-Alvarado explain that they are in the practice of not responding to media because the research has not been done yet and they are focused on the research process
- General agreement that language will be added to the bylaw the states members can speak as individual member but should make clear that they are not representing the taskforce or Fulton County in an official capacity.
- Review Organizational Structure Chart
  - $\circ$   $\;$  This topic is tabled for the next meeting

### New Business:

- All of the new business topic mentioned below are tabled for a future meeting
  - Research Design Committee/Duties
  - Creating structure and topics, and timeline for study
  - Identify the type of researchers needed for study.
  - Writing job descriptions and posting of positions o Oversight by Taskforce
- Mr. Thompson shares his background, political affiliations, and interest in serving the taskforce

#### Meeting Ending:

• Ms. Campbell reminds that task force that the need to follow the deadlines and timelines for providing information to the county

#### **Public Comments**

• Two comments from the chat related to the discussion of Mr. Russel's interview are read by Mr. Littles. No response is needed.

## Adjourn

• Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.