

Reparations Commission

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Location: Alameda County Training & Education Center
Hayward/Union City Rooms
125 – 12th Street, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Debra Gore-Mann at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present:

Leo Bazile
Artavia Berry
Jesse Burselson
Lori Cox
Alan E. Dones
Phillip S. Gardiner
Debra Gore-Mann
Shenita Hurskin
Carolyn Johnson
James Knowles
Larry McClendon
Brandon T. Sass
Shadrick Small
Vickie Stephens
Natasha Tripplett

Excused: Artavia Berry

Public Comment (items not listed on the agenda)

None.

Share Commission priorities – Informational item

Chair Gore-Mann invited Commission members to share some proposed priorities of the Reparations Commission. Commissioner members shared the following proposed priorities:

- Establish priorities for outcomes and goals, final outcomes, and timelines
- Clear direction for action items and indicators of success
- Healthcare equity, equity within the healthcare system; alignment with Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), partner with existing programs
- Strong foundational education, financial literacy
- Intergenerational impact of reparation should be considered
- Economics: policy change for economic harms, programs policies that can be changed to benefit; seek solutions and accountability, restorative economic justice
- Realize the interconnectedness between health and wealth assessments and impacts
Provide resources for black owned businesses and homeownership; serviced based communities; redevelop black communities; housing practices
- County allotted land, homeowners be relieved of mortgage payment; gated safe and secure communities

- Review the Reparations work of the City San Francisco, the State of California, and others at the next or future meeting; Important to listen to people who have done this work and started this work
- Measure the cost of inequality and ongoing exclusion of equitable participation, correlation between societal burden and costs and paradigms that do not provide access to resources
- Restorative economic justice
- Education; How to assist with getting youth into California colleges and universities with no affirmative action; afterschool activities, Saturday youth programs, sports, and recreation
- Get to the truth and reconciliation about what has happened and the role of Alameda County in systemic racism
- What can Alameda County do on its own without State and or Federal assistance; what is in the purview of Alameda County, even if it adds to the current debt
- Outreach to people still suffering from systemic racism in the County, what are they looking for from local government, what is County's culpability
- Acknowledge that reparations are about and for black people
- Rehabilitate places, systems, and behaviors, define historic inequities and procedures
- Address the wealth gap between African Americans and other ethnicities
- Explore and measure cost of inequality and ongoing exclusion of equitable participation in various industries with real estate as the largest investment assets class.
- Request assessment of tax dollar allocations and long term impacts on local economies based on disinvestment

Brainstorm of Priorities to Inform Subcommittees - Informational Item

Chair, Gore-Mann invited Commission members to brainstorm priorities to inform the subcommittees of the Reparations Commission.

Lori Cox, Vice Chair, suggested that the Commission Members review the [documents](#) that were provided to Commission members prior to the next meeting. Review to determine if there is alignment in any of the documents and the Reparations Commissions list of priorities. Review other groups processes, priorities, and subcommittees to inform for this Committee.

Other brainstorm priorities provided by Commission members included:

- Establish a subcommittee that will align with government policies
- Compile proposed priorities and cast votes to establish subcommittees
- Establish Short-term, mid-term and long-term priorities
- Deliberate over proposed subcommittee structure
- Review/ have a presentation on the Alameda county budget
- Establish subcommittees based on the knowledge Commission members have

Speaker

Nate Miley suggested that the Commission bring in partners from other jurisdictions who have done reparations work. The purpose would be to understand lessons learned from the process.

Rasheed Shabazz, Oakland Voices, requested that Commission members identify themselves prior to speaking for the benefit of the listening audience.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024.

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