

Reparations Commission

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

6:00 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members present:

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

Excused: Vickie Stephens

III. Public Comment (items not listed on the agenda)

None.

IV. Background Information – Informational Item

[Attachment](#)

Debra Gore-Mann, Chair presented a PowerPoint presentation of a review of background and resource materials previously distributed to the Reparations Commission.

The background material is discussed, including the 14 cities in Alameda County and the need to consider unincorporated cities. The Ad Hoc committee Reparations Committee emphasized the need for the creation of a draft action plan and maintaining communication with local municipalities regarding reparations.

The presentation highlighted the need for short, medium, and long-term plans, as well as listening sessions and engagement with the Board of Supervisors. The presentation provided context on the roles of each member in the Reparations Commission.

Highlights include:

Digital Divide and Industry Access: The discussion acknowledges the longstanding digital divide and emphasizes the importance of industry, innovation, and access to address systemic issues.

Identifying Areas of Influence: There is a focus on identifying areas within Alameda County where the commission can have an impact, including various departments, agencies, and commissions.

Need for Research and Presentations: There is a call for departments and commissions to provide information and presentations on their work related to black communities and reparations. This includes requesting data, historical context, and budget considerations.

Policy Making and Redlining: The need to address historical injustices such as redlining, suggesting that current policies may still perpetuate past discrimination.

Integration with Existing Efforts: Integrate the commission's efforts with existing reparations plans and initiatives, particularly those in San Francisco and California, to avoid duplication and enhance effectiveness.

Budget and Funding: Concerns are raised about the adequacy of the budget allocated for the commission's work, with suggestions to secure additional funding and ensure a realistic budget for research, drafting, listening sessions and other essential activities.

V. Follow Up Discussion from December 13, 2023, agenda item – Brainstorm of Priorities to Inform Subcommittees – Informational Item Discuss potential Commission Subcommittees
[Attachment](#)

Debra Gore-Mann, Chair, led the follow up discussion on Brainstorm of Priorities to Inform Subcommittees, from the December 13, 2023, meeting.

Focus Areas for Subcommittees: Various focus areas were proposed for subcommittees, including judicial processes, the grand jury system, Planning Department, and the Public Works Agency.

Organizing subcommittees to address various aspects of reparations, including economic empowerment, education, health equity, criminal justice reform, and policy changes. The importance of educating the public about the economic benefits of reparations were emphasized.

Participants express their views on the need to demonstrate how reparations benefit the entire community, not just specific groups. They stress the importance of presenting data and facts to gain broader support for the movement.

Proposed establishment of subcommittees:

Economic Empowerment: Focus on housing, access to capital, financial literacy

Health Equity & Wellbeing: Covering health issues, including mental health and homelessness

Education: Addressing issues related to education and youth engagement

Public Safety: Discussing policing and related community safety concerns

Public Policy: Covering broader policy implications across all areas.

The proposed subcommittees will be agendaized for action at a future meeting.

VI. Discussion on the need for consulting services to pursue support services for the Commission – Informational Item - Discussion of Commission requirements and scope of work

Skilled Consultation: The group discussed the types of skills required for consultation, including:

- Facilitation Skills: Necessary for community listening sessions
- Research Expertise: Needed for historical analysis, identifying disparities, and resource availability
- Policy Expertise: Understanding the policy implications of recommendations
- Legal Support: Advising on legal aspects, potential violations, and policy changes
- University Partnerships: Collaborating with local academic institutions for research and analysis
- Consultation Process: identifying firms or individuals with the required skill sets; potential pro bono legal support

ADJOURN

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

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