

# Reparations Commission

## SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Alameda County Training & Education Center  
Hayward/Union City Rooms  
125 – 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Jesse Burleson

Debra Gore-Mann

Shenita Hurskin

Carolyn Johnson

James Knowles

Larry McClendon

Brandon T. Sass

Shadrick Small

Vickie Stephens

**Excused:** Artavia Berry, Lori Cox, Alan E. Dones, Phillip S. Gardiner, Natasha Triplett

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

None.

### IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Sass and seconded by Commissioner Burleson, to approve the minutes for February 15, 2024, as submitted.

**Ayes:** Bazile, Burleson, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Stephens

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Berry, Cox, Dones, Gardiner, Triplett

**Abstain:**

**Motion approved 10/0**

### V. Legislative Update – Informational item

[Attachment](#)

The California Legislative Black Caucus proposed 14 measures influenced by the California Reparations Task Force. The bills cover various areas such as education, civil rights, criminal justice, health, and business.

Key points include

- Expanding technical education
- Financial aid for redlined communities
- Amending the constitution to fund programs addressing life expectancy
- An apology for past harms
- Criminal justice reforms like prohibiting involuntary servitude
- Restricting solitary confinement.

Additionally, bills addressed food injustices, licensing barriers for those with criminal records and prioritizing African American applicants for licenses.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports – Informational Item**

### **Infrastructure - marketing, communication, outreach/community engagement, legal/political**

(Leo, Jesse, Larry, Lori, Artavia, Vickie, Shad)

Commissioner McLendon, representing the Infrastructure Committee, provided an update on their recent meetings held on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. They discussed legal and political framework, budget considerations and staffing needs, marketing communication and engagement, outreach and community engagement, and long-term focus. Additionally, the discussion included:

- Importance of extending the term of the Commission
- Aligning with political milestones in 2026
- Review budget plans
- Contact The City and County of San Francisco's Reparations Committee for cost comparisons and ensuring inclusion of unincorporated areas in outreach efforts. They also discussed strategies for funding reparations and building alliances through collaboration with other groups.

### **Safety/criminal justice**

(Leo, Jesse, James, Carolyn)

The Safety/Criminal Justice subcommittee had not meet prior to the meeting however they intend to meet soon.

### **Economic - housing, small businesses**

(Brandon, Alan, Artavia, James)

Commissioner Sass reported on the Economic Subcommittee meeting and the discussion included:

- Existing bills
- The cost of poverty to the county
- The potential for offsetting this cost through education and community improvement
- Provide waivers for equity inclusion to businesses and programs
- What are the available budgets for programs and for the Commission
- Research existing information from institutions like Cal Berkeley and Cal State East Bay
- Considered utilizing pre-existing revenue streams to fund programs

### **Health and Education**

(Natasha, James, Shadrick, Shenita)

Commissioner Hurskin reported on the Health and Education Subcommittee.

They discussed key questions regarding the information needed for their subcommittee's recommendations. This included gathering healthcare data stratified by race, ethnicity, and zip code, while also identifying existing policies addressing healthcare gaps. Additionally, the subcommittee discussed:

- The importance of accessing school district data on various educational metrics
- Estimated timetable, they divided their work into three phases: data collection, analysis, and recommendation, estimating completion within 12 to 18 months.
- Emphasized the need for specificity in data requests and proposed working with a data analyst to expedite the process.

## **VII. Subcommittee revisions/modifications, recommendations – discussion – Informational Item**

Debra Gore-Mann, Chair, invited the Commission to discuss any agenda items they would like included in upcoming meetings.

The Commission would like to include the following items in future meetings:

- Extending the term of the Commission and setting a specific end date for a vote
- Considering a budget recommendation based on examples from other commissions or task forces nationwide
- Establishing an allyship/partnership subcommittee for external relations
- Each Commissioner reach out to influential community partners to garner support for the Commission's work

The Commission also discussed engaging different modalities for collecting opinions, leveraging existing recommendations from the Statewide Reparations Task Force, and utilizing partnerships with organizations for outreach.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024.

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