

# Reparations Commission

## SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 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:

Jesse Burleson  
Lori Cox  
Alan Dones  
Debra Gore-Mann  
Shenita Hurskin  
Carolyn Johnson  
James Knowles  
Larry McClendon  
Brandon T. Sass  
Shadrick Small  
Natasha Tripplett

**Excused:** Leo Bazile, Artavia Berry, Phillip S. Gardiner, Vickie Stephens

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

Travis Castle, Path to Humanity, commented on a proposed plan to decrease poverty and improve public safety, self-funded with no taxpayer money or grants. The Path to Humanity is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit and offers an eight-phase system to create funding for local cities to improve conditions, reduce poverty and other issues. The program is managed by third-party vendors at no cost to the counties, who receive biweekly funding reports. Castle seeks to have the program added to a future agenda for approval and promises to handle all the work involved. He requested support for the initiative at upcoming meetings.

Artavia Berry commended the commission's work and expressed regret for not being present at the meeting.

Victor Obaseki, the new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, was introduced to the commission.

### IV. Approval of Minutes – Action Item

[Minutes of Wednesday, April 10, 2024](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Cox and seconded by Commissioner Sass, to approve the minutes for April 10, 2024, as submitted.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett  
**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Dones, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 10/0**

**V. Alameda County Budget Overview – Informational Item**  
[Attachment](#)

Melanie Atendido, Deputy County Administrator, County Administrator’s Office, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the County Budget Overview.

The budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 is still in development. The County Administrator recently presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year to the Board of Supervisors.

*Economic Context*

Alameda County is the 7th most populous county in California, with a population of about 1.6 million. Unemployment rate as of April 2023: 4.4% (compared to 5.3% in California and 3.9% nationally).

*Real Estate Market*

Median home price: \$1.4 million. Home sales are down year-over-year but up over the prior month.

*State Budget Situation*

The Governor addressed a \$55 billion shortfall in the May revision. Proposed reductions across multiple programs, including Health and Human Services. Sales tax revenues are falling short of projections, impacting realignment growth revenues.

*Federal Budget Context*

The President released a \$7.3 trillion fiscal year 2025 budget, but it is unlikely to progress due to federal gridlock.

*Redistribution of Redevelopment Funds*

Fifteen cents (\$.15) of the dollar for redevelopment have been redistributed to other taxing entities since the dissolution of redevelopment agencies.

The county received some of these funds, with the first \$90 million allocated to tier-one projects in urban unincorporated areas, aligned with the original redevelopment purpose. Remaining funds are used for various initiatives guided by the board, including the Enhancing Vision 2026 fund for children, youth, and families.

*Economic Impact and Assessment*

Approximately \$70 million in additional funds come in annually. No specific assessment has been conducted to correlate these funds' usage with economic growth, sales taxes, or employment opportunities.

*County's Credit Rating and Debt*

- The county has a high credit rating, leading to lower borrowing rates
- The largest investment is the \$680 million acute care tower at Highland Hospital
- The county also has voter-approved general obligation bonds for affordable housing (Measure A1) and fire station rebuilding (Measure X)

*Tax Breaks for Companies*

There are no known tax breaks provided by the county to companies like Tesla.

*Budget Balancing and Cuts*

Reductions in areas like healthcare services, public assistance, and public protection will vary across programs. The budget process is guided by a work group including department heads, board members, labor and community groups, and other stakeholders.

**VI Board of Supervisors' (BOS) AD HOC Committee on Reparations, May 30, 2024, Meeting Summary – Informational Item**

Chair Gore-Mann reported that she attended the Ad Hoc Committee on Reparations with President Nate Miley and Supervisor Elisa Márquez, and the proposed budget items were discussed.

**VII. Subcommittee Reports – Informational Item**

**Infrastructure - marketing, communication, outreach/community engagement, legal/political**  
(Leo, Jesse, Larry, Lori, Artavia, Vickie, Shad)

Commissioner McClendon reported that the subcommittee met, and they drafted various documents, including a budget template. The template allows each subcommittee to project their future financial needs. Commissioner McClendon emphasized that the infrastructure budget allocation is intended for use by all subcommittees and supports the overall marketing of the commission.

**Safety/criminal justice**  
(Leo, Jesse, James, Carolyn)

Commissioners Jesse Burleson and Carolyn Johnson reported that they met briefly and added some draft numbers to the budget template. The subcommittee members were unsure if their numbers were integrated into the larger document. They have not met on any other issues other than the budget since before the April meeting.

**Economic - housing, small businesses**  
(Brandon, Alan, Artavia, James)

Commissioner Brandon Sass reported that the subcommittee did not prepare any budget numbers. Instead, they focused on gathering information about current county programs and discussed using these as frameworks for Reparations Commission work. They also reviewed the California Reparations Commission's extensive document on the wealth gap, and how to apply some their work.

Commissioner James Knowles reported that they are planning to engage with the Housing and Community Development Department to understand their activities and how these could inform reparation efforts.

**Health and Education**  
(Natasha, James, Shadrick, Shenita)

Commissioner Small reported that the Health and Education subcommittee had a meeting with a former health system employee who presented health equity initiatives, which will be useful for their future work. The subcommittee did not identify specific budget needs beyond research, analysis, and facilitating listening sessions.

**VIII. Reparations Commission Budget Request to BOS - Action Item**  
[Attachment](#)

Chair Gore-Mann reported that she worked with the Infrastructure Committee and a draft comprehensive budget, which has been reviewed and revised based on input from various subcommittees. The budget covers allocations for research, analysis, and other necessary activities for each subcommittee.

**VIII. Reparations Commission Budget Request to BOS - Action Item - *continued***

Projections and allocations were made based on Commissioner's industry knowledge. The initial proposed budget was under the projected \$5 million, coming in at \$3.2 million. Each subcommittee was asked to review and potentially adjust their allocated amounts. Health and Education subcommittees suggested that some allocations may need to be doubled due to the distinct areas they cover. The Safety and Criminal Justice subcommittee suggested potential adjustments may be made however they need to further review.

Revisions were made based on these discussions, with adjustments in the amounts allocated to ensure adequate coverage for each category and subcommittee's needs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hurskin and seconded by Commissioner Burleson, to approve the proposed Budget Request to the Board of Supervisors of \$4.1 million dollars covering 2 fiscal years; July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 11/0**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sass and seconded by Commissioner Knowles to rescind the previous motion on the Budget Request to the Board of Supervisors.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 11/0**

A motion was made by Commissioner Tripplett and seconded by Commissioner Dones to amend the budget request for the Economic – housing, small business subcommittee budget to increase the budget by \$470,000, and, to approve the proposed Budget Request to the Board of Supervisors of \$4,663,200.00 dollars covering 2 fiscal years; July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 11/0**

**IX. Request Allyship and Partnership with Academic Institutions – Action Item**  
[Attachment](#)

Chair Gore-Mann presented a proposal that focuses on allyship and partnership with academic institutions. The document outlines the background, introduction, and scope of work for these partnerships.

The proposal is to partner with Northern California colleges and universities. Commissioner Burleson raised the point about including institutions beyond Northern California, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), which is accepted as a friendly amendment.

**IX. Request Allyship and Partnership with Academic Institutions – Action Item - *continued***

A motion was made by Commissioner Sass and seconded by Commissioner Hurskin, to approve moving forward with the Request for academic partners and scope of work, as amended.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 11/0**

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Cox, to approve moving forward with the Request for Allyship Organization partnerships and scope of work.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 11/0**

**X. Establish effort to seek funders to support Reparations Commission budget request of \$5m to the Board of Supervisors – Action Item**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sass and seconded by Commissioner Hurskin, to approve to seek funders to support Reparations Commission budget request of \$5m to the Board of Supervisors.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 11/0**

**XI. Request Alameda County Department Sponsor Reparations Commission To Help Guide the Commission Workload – Action Item**

[Attachment](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Sass and seconded by Commissioner Knowles, to Request Alameda County Department Sponsor Reparations Commission to help guide the Commission Workload, as amended to request one (1) County department for sponsorship/collaboration with the full Reparations Commission.

**Ayes:** Burleson, Cox, Dones, Gore-Mann, Hurskin, Johnson, Knowles, McClendon, Sass, Small, Tripplett

**Noes:**

**Excused:** Bazile, Berry, Gardiner, Stephens

**Motion passed 11/0**

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2024.

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