

Reparations Commission

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, July 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:

Jesse Burleson
Lori Cox
Alan Dones
Phillip S. Gardiner
Debra Gore-Mann
James Knowles
Larry McClendon
Shadrick Small

Excused: Leo Bazile, Artavia Berry, Shenita Hurskin, Carolyn Johnson, Brandon T. Sass, Vickie Stephens, Natasha Tripplett

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

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes – Action Item

A motion was made by Commissioner McClendon and seconded by Commissioner Dones, to approve the minutes of June 12, 2024, as submitted.

Ayes: Burleson, Cox, Gore-Mann, Knowles, McClendon, Small

Noes:

Excused: Bazile, Berry, Hurskin, Johnson, Sass, Stephens, Tripplett

Motion passed 8/0

V. Review of Commission Service – Informational Item

Chair Gore-Mann discussed the status of the Commissions' request to extend the term of the Commission, which required approval from the Board of Supervisors. The request included maintaining the initial budget for space and stipends. However, this extension was not yet added to the full Board agenda. The process is moving forward and hope to provide more details soon.

Tona Henninger, Chief of Staff, District 4, reported that the upcoming Ad Hoc Reparations Committee meeting will address the scope of work and budget items discussed, which will then be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to their appointing board members and attend the ad hoc committee meeting, if available.

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 has not met frequently since completing the scopes of work, budget, and action items for the Ad Hoc committee. Their recent efforts have focused on brainstorming ways the city and county could fund reparations. There have been no significant updates since last month.

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

Commissioners Knowles and Burlson reported that the subcommittee has had challenges in meeting due to conflicting schedules. The subcommittee has discussed whether to focus on the juvenile or adult division of the probation department, with a preference for the juvenile division due to its unique assessment tools and opportunities for reform. Both divisions are important, but they may need additional resources or personnel to handle both.

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

Commissioner Knowles reported that the subcommittee discussed the Alameda County Housing Program. The program provides down payment assistance loans for first-time homebuyers. The program initially had \$38 million in funding and received nearly 6,000 applications, but only 228 were approved, with 22 still pending. Most homes purchased through the program are in Oakland, Hayward, San Leandro, and Alameda. The application process takes about nine months. He will pursue more information about the program.

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

Commissioner Knowles reported on the Alameda County Public Health Commission, which focuses on the Native American, Hispanic, and African American communities. He highlighted a wellness hub in Oakland and a health coach apprenticeship program that targets middle school to college students, encouraging them to pursue careers in the medical field. The program partners with Chabot College and is funded by Measure A. The program is seeking long-term funding and aims to involve 1,000 students. Knowles expressed a willingness to engage further with these initiatives on behalf of the commission.

Commissioner Small reported that the Board of Supervisors and the County Office of Education have limited authority to influence education within the county. Instead, individual school districts are primarily responsible for managing education in their respective areas. Therefore, to effectively improve educational outcomes, particularly for Black students in Alameda County, it is essential to collaborate directly with these school districts. For instance, Berkeley Unified School District has recently initiated a reparations report, showing strong community support, although it remains the only district in the county to establish a Reparations Commission.

VIII. Cancellation of August Meeting – Action Item

Chair Gore-Mann asked the Commissioners if they would like to cancel the August meeting, in line with the Board of Supervisors August recess.

There was no action taken and the Commission will meet in August.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2024.

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