Chair
David O. Fakunle II, Ph.D.

Vice Chair
Charles L. Chavis, Jr., Ph.D.

Staff
Sophie Asike, Esq.
Arusha N. Evans
Zenita Hurley, Esq.
Kristin McFarlane, Esq.

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Commissioners
David Armenti
Lindsey Baker
Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.
Simone Barrett-Williams, Ph.D.
Michelle Coles, Esq.
Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.
Maya Davis
Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.
Holly Fisher-Hickman, Ph.D.
Christopher E. Haley
Elizabeth Hughes
Amy Millin
Robert Parker
Carl Snowden
Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.
Stephanie Suerth, Ph.D.

Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 9th, 2026
Time: 11:30am-1:30pm Eastern Time
Location: Virtual

Attendance

Commissioners	
David O. Fakunle	X
Charles L. Chavis	
David Armenti	
Lindsey Baker	
Iris Leigh Barnes	
Simone Barrett-Williams	
Michelle Coles	X
Nicholas Creary	X
Maya Davis	X
Teisha Dupree-Wilson	X
Holly Fisher-Hickman	
Christopher E. Haley	X
Elizabeth Hughes	X
Amy Millin	X
Robert Parker	
Carl Snowden	
Marshall Stevenson	X
Stephanie Suerth	X
Sophie Asike	X
Zenita Hurley	
Kristin McFarlane	X

Call to Order

The meeting started at 11:37 am; a quorum was reached.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 11:37 AM EST.
- A quorum was confirmed.
- Minutes from the January meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Chair's Comments & Soul Check

- Reflections were shared on the broader social and political climate.
- Emphasis was placed on remaining grounded in truth, justice, and restorative accountability.
- Appreciation was expressed for commissioners, staff, supporters, and community members for sustained commitment over nearly seven years.
- The Chair noted the Commission has met its original goals and continues to focus on meaningful closure and legacy.

3. Committee Reports

- Committee updates were deferred.
- Relevant committee-related matters were addressed under New Business.

4. New Business

a. Updates on MLTRC-related Legislation

- A review of the Commission's recommendations resulted in 13 drafted bills, prioritizing items with minimal or no fiscal impact.
- A joint resolution calling for a formal state apology for complicity and failure to prevent racial terror lynchings has been introduced in both legislative chambers.
- A Senate hearing was scheduled for the week of the meeting.
- Commissioners and affiliated organizations were encouraged to submit written or oral testimony in support.
- Attendance and testimony in Annapolis were planned by Commission leadership.

b. Updates on Advocacy with State Leadership

- Planned advocacy included a briefing with the Legislative Black Caucus, with a 10-minute overview focused on Commission findings and recommendations.

- Briefings have also occurred with executive branch leadership.
- Engagement with coalition partners continues, including coordinated testimony and outreach.
- Advocacy efforts were framed as the beginning of the culmination phase of the Commission's work.

c. Virtual Walk-Through of Reimagined Ellicott City Jail Site

- A presentation was provided on the redevelopment of a historic jail site linked to racial terror lynching.
- The project includes:
    - Adaptive reuse of the building for community space, education, and organizational offices.
    - Retention of select historic features.
    - Creation of contemplative outdoor space with interpretive elements.
- The site's layered history—including enslavement, incarceration, lynching, and reform—was emphasized.
- Considerations discussed:
    - Historical accuracy and interpretive integrity
    - Community engagement and responsiveness
    - Security and protection against vandalism
- County leadership support and upcoming community engagement opportunities were noted.

d. MLTRC Representation on the Maryland Reparations Commission

- Under the new statute, the Chair will appoint an MLTRC representative following a Commission vote.
- Commissioners were invited to self-nominate or nominate others via email.
- A vote will be scheduled at a future meeting.

e. Reflection on Commission Work and Legacy

- A facilitated discussion reviewed early expectations and challenges identified when the Commission was formed.
- Reflections highlighted:
    - Success in meeting the legislative mandate
    - Effective balancing of a focused charge with broader historical context
    - Strong engagement from descendants of victims
    - Limited opposition during the Commission's lifespan
- The Commission was recognized for addressing both physical and structural violence associated with racial terror lynching.

- Discussion emphasized knowledge-sharing beyond Maryland, including conferences, publications, and cross-state engagement.
- Ideas raised included documentation, archiving, presentations, potential awards, and future collaborative initiatives.

5. Announcements

- An upcoming public event connecting MLTRC work and reparations education was announced.
- Additional community programs, film screenings, and educational discussions were shared.
- Commissioners were encouraged to continue elevating the work through their respective platforms.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM EST.
- Commissioners discussed interest in holding at least one in-person meeting prior to the Commission's sunset (June 2026).