

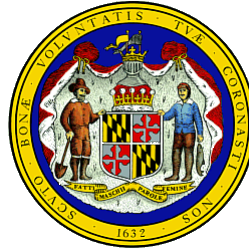
**Chair**  
David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

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

**Staff**  
Sophie Asike, Esq.  
Trish Floyd

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, J.D.  
Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.  
Roger Davidson, Ph.D.  
Maya Davis  
Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.  
Christopher E. Haley  
Elizabeth Hughes  
Amy Millin  
Carl Snowden  
Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.  
Stephanie Suerth

## Commission Meeting Minutes – September 2024

**Date:** Monday, September 9th, 2024  
**Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm Eastern Time  
**Location:** Virtual

### Attendance

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

### Call to Order

For more information on the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, visit  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/>

The meeting started at 11:30; a quorum was reached.

### **Chair's and Commissioners' Comments**

Chair Fakunle thanks everyone for attending and opens by confirming that there will be a hearing on October 5<sup>th</sup>, and that the committee is in the final weeks for the next one for Montgomery County. He thanks all commissioners, and staff for putting this hearing together and asks that all commissioners try to attend, either in person or virtually (in person preferred).

### **Research Committee Report**

Commissioner Armenti reported that the Research Committee met on September 30<sup>th</sup>. They continued to focus on confirming details of case studies and prioritizing descendant identification and outreach in alignment with the public hearing schedule. The committee is currently prioritizing the upcoming hearing on October 26<sup>th</sup> in Harford and Cecil County hearings. They continue to rectify the information that comes out of hearings with digital access to materials and update information with collaboration partners. Descendant outreach includes victims and/or perpetrators in the cases being investigated, with prioritization of victims' descendants while opening opportunities for anyone with direct genealogical connections to bring primary information about lynchings. Commissioner Armenti thanked everyone who has shared their experiences during the hearings, recognizing that it can be emotional. The Committee continues to enhance descendant outreach and communication. Commissioner Armenti reiterated that they are continuing to identify ways to share information with descendants to encourage participation, extending invitations from executive leaders to descendants to emphasize the Commission's weight and credibility and its work on behalf of the State of Maryland. He will follow up with the Chair and Vice-Chairs on extending formal invitations to descendant communities. Lastly, the Committee continues to finalize the research from past hearings to create public accessibility.

### **Logistics Committee Report**

Commissioner Millin takes the floor to give updates. She advises that along with the October 5<sup>th</sup> hearing, there are also five upcoming hearings.

Upcoming:

- The October 5<sup>th</sup> Montgomery Counts hearing will be held at The Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. Press release for this hearing is in its final stages and will be going out shortly.

- On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Hartford and Cecil Counties will be held at the Ames UMC in Belair.
- November 16<sup>th</sup> is Southern Maryland region in St Mary's and Calvert counties with Charles as a partner. Held at Leonardtown Library (Confirmed by Commissioner Cole)
- December 7<sup>th</sup> is the Midshore Region, includes Kent, Caroline and Queen Anne's County. Will be held at the Minary's Dream Alliance in Chestertown.
- January 25<sup>th</sup> is Prince Georges County at Bowie State

Two counties that are still in conversation are Howard and Carol.

The event stream team has all dates so that the hearings will be recorded and live streamed. ASL interpreters are confirmed as well as trauma informed therapists. The committee is looking to confirm the Maryland State Police. Commissioner Millin stressed that it is important to have an extra level of security so that people feel safe during hearings.

There will be no September logistics meeting due to everyone's schedules. Everyone on the logistics committee is serving as a liaison and trying to get hearings up and going. The next meeting will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **New Business**

Commissioner Davis suggests that they put the October hearing on the homepage, so that people will be able to see it when they first come to the site. Commission Millin agrees.

Commissioner Armenti advises that they were able to meet as a committee on September 4<sup>th</sup> and get updates about the immediate three or four hearings and associated cases. There are several pieces that are in motion that will be gradually rolling out to Commissioners and the executive committee. Some of the things that everyone should expect to see and provide feedback on will be the case study profile documents that Heritage Associates have been developing, which are documents that summarize the circumstances individuals involved in the crimes that they are investigating.

They are also gathering genealogical profiles of potential or confirmed descendants. The research committee will need the collaboration of everyone on the commission as well as Coalition partners to make sure that they are getting as much cooperation as they can about individuals that are participating as decedents.

Support will be requested from the chair and vice chair with invitations to confirmed decedents for the hearings and the recruitment or contacting potential decedents who may be leery of this process or want to know exactly what they are getting involved with. Commissioner Creary reminds everyone that the deadline for submission of proposals is September 17<sup>th</sup>. He also advises that there was a list sent out by Commissioner Cole of potential expert witnesses that they are considering inviting to provide testimony.

Commissioner Armenti suggested that along with the Baltimore Sun, the committee should prioritize the Afro-American Newspaper.

Trish Boyle confirms that registration links are coming soon, and that Commissioner Millin has been getting them set up so that they will have a solidified location where people can register for upcoming hearings where locations have been verified.

The next business meeting will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at Bowie State University – in person.