

Chair

David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

Vice Chair

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

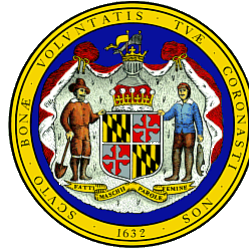
Staff

Sophie Asike, Esq.

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, October 20th, 2025**Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm Eastern Time**Location:** Virtual

Attendance

Commissioners	
David O. Fakunle	X
Charles L. Chavis	
David Armenti	X
Lindsey Baker	X
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	X
Carl Snowden	X
Marshall Stevenson	X
Stephanie Suerth	X
Sophie Asike	X
Zenita Hurley	
Kristin McFarlane	X

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

Reconciliation Committee – Commissioner Coles’ Update

Call to Order

The meeting started at 11:33 am; a quorum was reached.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 11:33 AM EST.
- A quorum was confirmed.
- The minutes from the June, September, and September Special meetings were approved unanimously, with no abstentions or objections.

2. Chair’s Comments & Soul Check

- Chair emphasized the emotional weight of the work and praised the commission’s dedication.

3. Committee Reports

- Reconciliation Committee shared updates:
 - Draft nearing completion; due December 1, 2025.
 - Estimated length: 500–600 pages including appendices.
 - Legal framework added to address constitutional concerns.
 - Recommendation for General Assembly to fund legal defense for implementation.

5. New Business

- Printing and distribution logistics discussed:
 - Six official copies with color printing and perfect binding.
 - Distribution to General Assembly, Governor’s Office, HBCUs, descendant communities, and public via website/QR codes.
- Cover image options reviewed:

- “Maryland, My Maryland” drawing of Matthew Williams (family permission granted).
- Historical lynching photos with trigger warnings.
- Consensus: image must be impactful yet sensitive.
- **Discussion and Vote Re: Final Report**
 - No formal vote recorded, but strong support expressed for the draft and its direction.

6. Announcements

- **Apology for Slavery Event:** Scheduled for November 22, 2025, at Maryland Hall; MLTRC to commend County Executive Pittman.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - October 25: Maryland Lynching Memorial Project Annual Conference.
 - November 1: Emancipation Day at Riversdale House Museum.
- **Advocacy Planning:**
 - Press conference planned for January 9 or 12, 2026.
 - Legislative engagement with Delegate Peña-Melnik and other lawmakers.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM EST.