

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

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.