

**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, November 10th, 2025

**Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm Eastern Time

**Location:** Virtual

### Attendance

<b>Commissioners</b>	
David O. Fakunle	X
Charles L. Chavis	X
David Armenti	X
Lindsey Baker	
Iris Leigh Barnes	X
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	
Marshall Stevenson	X
Stephanie Suerth	
Sophie Asike	X
Zenita Hurley	
Kristin McFarlane	X

## **Call to Order**

The meeting started at 11:38 am; a quorum was reached.

### **1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

- The meeting was called to order at 11:38 AM EST.
- A quorum was confirmed.
- The approval of the October meeting minutes was tabled for the next meeting.

### **2. Chair's Comments & Soul Check**

- Commissioner Fakunle opened the meeting, noting the historic nature of the commission's work and its nearing conclusion after six years.
- Shared preface of the final report, highlighting:
  - Dedication to victims and descendants.
  - Historical context of racial terror lynching in Maryland (1854–1933).
  - Importance of due process and systemic accountability.
  - Over 80 recommendations addressing criminal justice, education, health, land ownership, and economic equity.
  - Call for ongoing reconciliation beyond the commission's formal work.

### **3. Committee Reports**

- Reconciliation Committee shared updates:
  - Major revisions of part two of the recommendations completed:
    - Legal history to be presented as a timeline.
    - Comparative reparations analysis added.
    - Recommendations streamlined from ~140 to 84.
    - New table includes success metrics, cost estimates (~\$670M, ~1% of Maryland's budget), and applicability categories.
  - Preface finalized; report expected to go to printer within a week.

## 4. New Business

- **Final Report Revisions:**
  - Commissioners praised the work on specific recommendations with metrics of success and cost estimates by Michelle Coles and the team.
  - Emphasis on clarity for multiple audiences and realistic implementation strategies.
- **Advocacy Strategy Updates:**
  - Meeting with Delegate Peña-Melnyk scheduled for next week to discuss legislative strategy.
  - Press conference proposed for early January (around Jan 9–10, tied to historical lynching anniversary).
  - Media outreach plan discussed:
    - Engage local and national outlets (AFRO, WAMU, NPR, Baltimore Sun, Baltimore Banner).
    - Coalition partners and Lynching Memorial Projects to amplify messaging.
    - Explore mobilization tools (e.g., Five Calls) for grassroots advocacy.
  - Legal guidance requested on lobbying limits for commissioners.
  - Focus will shift to advocacy and media rollout as the final report moves to publication.

## 5. Announcements

- Upcoming events:
  - Nov 18: Student research showcase on Baltimore Black Sox at Coppin State.
  - Nov 23: “Teach Truth and Purpose” online event honoring Emmett Till.
- MLMP conference recap: positive feedback and recorded presentation available on YouTube.

## 6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM EST.