

Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission

Meeting #29

Date: Monday, October 18, 2021

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Attendance:

David Armenti	ab	Kirkland Hall	AB
Iris Barnes	X	Elizabeth Hughes	X
Simone Barrett	X	Teisha Dupree Wilson	X
(DeNeen Brown)	(ret)	Gary Norman (new appointed)	X
Izetta Mobley	X	Carl Snowden	AB
Charles Chavis	X	Marshall Stevenson	X
Nick Creary	X		
Roger Davidson	AB	Stephanie Thompson	X
Maya Davis	X	Zenita Hurley	X
Omar Eaton-Martinez	X	Kristin McFarlane	X
David Fakunle	X	Will Schwarz	X
Chris Haley	X	(Sonya Osei)	X

* In the absence of Commissioner Dr. Klugh. Coppin State University represented at this meeting by Dr. Teisha Dupree-Wilson

Members of the public present:

Elaine Rice Bachman, Emily Oland Squires, Virginie Ladisch, Diane Teichert, Mary Craft

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fakunle at 11:34a.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the meeting of September 13, 2021 were approved unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

Chair Fakunle gave opportunity to introduce new appointed Commissioners.

- Dr. Izetta Mobley Director of Interpretation, Collections, and Education at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum
- Dr. Teisha Dupree-Wilson - Coppin State University Assistant Professor - African American Media's Involvement in the Black Freedom Movement

Chair Fakunle: DEBRIEF: The first MD LTRC Reconciliation hearing was held 10/2/2021 in Allegany County. This event was successful. We would like to emphasize a huge thank you to Commission members in the success and work thus far. There must be recommitment in Commission charges in order to further our organizations mission. The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission is here to guide and lead. As a commission we must move at the pace of the local coalitions all sessions in order to have effective hearings and sessions.

Co-Chair Chavis: DEBRIEF: As a state body with a historic mission, a lot our work is to support and help communities heal. It is so important when working with local organizations, commissioners should make sure to push for healing and reconciliation

Mr. Schwarz- It is important to make sure oral history projects are being transcribed through software to form transcripts Commissioners can review before the hearings for context and not just for record. If needed or any information contact Will Schwarz. Everyone attending hearings should be as informed as possible about local narratives and history.

Commissioner Davis- Can we have something written regarding the oral histories to be listed on the website and what is requested from local coalitions? Also, both sides should be satisfied local coalitions and MD LTRC regarding content that is going to be released into the hearings and session presentations.

Commissioner Creary- The flow of work of MD LTRC is steady. Based on the work done and the work from local coalitions. With extension until 2024, the commission has time to plan effectively and scale how to plan.

Mr. Schwarz: As a Commission, we do not want to stretch out and dilute the mission. There is a danger in stretching it out. We want everyone to feel comfortable and prepared but within reason. We know coalitions need time to prepare but we must recommit to getting hearings done effectively and efficiently.

Diana Teichart- The Prince George's County Memorial Lynching Project met virtually last month. The meeting focused on community remembrance project focused on earliest lynching in county in 1869. We were tremendously moved by the powerful expression with transcripts and information. Gave great perspective and community involvement. **Also agrees that they will need time as well as many other local coalitions will.**

Commissioner Norman- We need not to relinquish momentum, while realizing it takes a while. Great work by all. They are working diligently to build relationships with local coalition in their assigned county (Baltimore County)

Co-Chair Chavis: If there are coalitions that need more time adjustments can be made, we can ask what is needed and how we can assist to help them get ready. We should move forward with other coalitions that are ready.

Chair Fakunle: MD LTRC has resources and new support. We must acclimate new commissioners to MD LTRC charges and provide support to better work and effectively work. Local coalitions need time to formally plan and organize. Commission is here to help and do better in order to have more successful hearings.

Virginie Ladisch: If needed, taking more time to help with planning for hearings. During reflecting it may be able to have a Commissioner's retreat. International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) would love to support and provide resources. Whether in person, hybrid, or virtual.

Committee Reports:

- Logistics – Commissioner Maya Davis
 - **Public hearing debrief** – There were topics that came up for discussion. A few Commissioners met with Allegany County Coalition Chair, Commissioner Armenti was host, recognize there is a need for co-host capabilities, need to be able to have access to ensure people can get in. There is a possibility to Request webinar capacity in the future.
 - **Discussion:** Can there be sound check? What are the roles and responsibilities for Coalitions and Commission? Can we potentially have rehearsals before hearings?
 - **Discussion:** How do we respond to participants with questions? What is the contact? How do we move forward? As a Commission, there should be deadlines for attendance in-person and virtual.
 - Ensure everyone is muted unless speaking during hearing.
 - As a Commission, we should make sure to direct people to the MD LTRC website for zoom and all publications. All meeting information is there.
 - **HEARING DATES Discussion-** Counties have requested change of date in order to better prepare. (Anne Arundel, Howard, and Prince George's) What is our plan to back up? Do they want in person or virtual or hybrid? MD LTRC would like to make sure we have local coalition support and concerns should be addressed.
 - **Next steps** – There will be an in-person meeting with Virginie Ladisch in Annapolis to discuss how to resolve certain topics discussed and additional planning. Date TBA
 - **Commissioner Hughes-** Should we have some type of formal survey for those who have attended hearing to provide additional feedback. What could be beneficial and useful?

- **Research** – Commissioner David Armenti/ Maya Presented
 - Same report/ joint meetings

- **Reconciliation** – Vice Chair Dr. Charles Chavis
 - Commissioners have been working to provide information with baseline data. Going in the order of the hearings. The Research committee is working diligently and documenting all of the work being done while we wait for Genealogist and Research Historian positions become available.
 - Co-Chair Chavis spent time in with Allegany County in preparation for hearing. Stayed the weekend in the area with the community. Thinking in the future discussing reconciliation, it is imperative to spend time build relationships with those involved in these communities. Seeing the remarkable work that has been done and it was impactful.
 - Moving forward, it is suggested that it be a requirement for liaisons to stay and build with the community to help build a report for healing and justice leading up to Reconciliation Hearings.

New Business:

- **Introduction of Project Manager-** Ms. Stephanie Thompson. Ms. Thompson will focus on building relationships with local coalitions, have official processes in place and documented, and to help build the program with the Commission.
- MD LTRC Commission members are finalizing and updating position description for Social Worker positions that will work with local coalitions.

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Announcements:

- The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project is holding 4th annual "Lynching in Maryland" conference on Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded at 12:42pm