

# Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 9, 2020

11:30 a.m. (Virtual)

### **Commissioners and Staff present (Via telephone/Virtual):**

David Armenti; Iris Barnes; Simone Barrett; DeNeen Brown; Charles Chavis; Nicholas Creary; Roger Davidson; Maya Davis; Omar Eaton-Martinez; David Fakunle; Kirkland Hall; Elizabeth Hughes; Elgin Klugh; Gary Norman; Carl Snowden; Chris Haley; Zenita Hurley; Kristin McFarlane; Sonya Osei; Will Schwarz; Chris Haley

**Absent:** Jacqueline Bullock; Marshall Stevenson; Tamara Wilson;

**Members of the public present:** Elaine Bachmann; Tim Baker; Stan Brown; Lindsey Jackson; Jan Kleinman; Alex Levy; Lisa Seghetti; Emily Oland Squires; Elinor Thompson;

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**Call to Order:** Chair Fakunle called the meeting to order at approximately 11:35 A.M., Ms. Osei called the role of Commissioners. Members of the public introduced themselves for the record.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes for the October 12, 2020 Commission meeting were reviewed and approved with revisions.

### **Public Comments:**

- Chair Fakunle- Chair Fakunle acknowledges and mourns the loss of public community member Linda Duyer who was a supporter of MD LTRC and the work on racial terror lynching. She will be truly missed in our communities.

### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

#### **Logistics' Committee: Commissioner Maya Davis**

- The subcommittee will meet once a month until further notice. Next meeting will be held November, 25, 2020.
- Mr. Schwarz asked Commissioner Davis to sit in on a meeting on Saturday, November 14, 2020 regarding County coalition logistics.
- The goal is to put grouped county coalitions in contact with each other. The coalitions would like to work with other organizations and MD LTRC regarding meetings that may be joint (hearings). This may be able to help conduct research and work.
- **Future Discussion:** Would MD LTRC be open to research from experts in addition to first hand recounts and first person stories? How do we establish trust to tell the actually story

where we do not dictate how others tell their stories? How can we assure safety? Some interviewees do not feel comfortable telling their story?

- It may be complicated to provide additional security, but as MD LTRC we have to find a way to support those who do come forward.
- The intention here is to provide safe and accurate telling of the truth on racial terror lynchings in MD in a way that allows us to tell the truth and move forward with reconciliation. MD LTRC will need to review the Public Information Act, to review how to govern and provide protections over the information shared and stored.
- **Future Discussion:** Can we redact the name of witnesses? Is this an option? Thorough analysis is needed for Public Information Act for additional information. The work on a state entity must be transparent.
- If interviewees want to remain anonymous, MD LTRC can potentially include a link to information where names can be redacted. The goal of this is to allow documents to remain public record, but with limited access to personal information. **Does MD LTRC need a non-state entity as archive collector to help with protections?**

#### **Research Committee: Commissioner Klugh**

- The Research committee has not met yet for the month of November and will work to schedule a meeting in the near future.

#### **Reconciliation and Justice Committee: Commissioner Chavis**

- The Reconciliation and Justice committee would like to consider bringing in trauma experts and others to help provide additional support to interviewees and members of the public with additional information regarding racial terror lynching that have occurred in Maryland.
- The Reconciliation and Justice committee will continue drafting documents to lay out interview process for interviews to include protections and provisions to record an accurate detail of story accounts.

#### **New Business**

##### **a. MCAAHC/MLTRC joint statement/press conference**

- Joint statement has been finalized and shared with both commissions for final reviews.
- Monday, December 4, 21, or 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 are potential meeting dates for the press conference. Commissioners should complete Doodle Poll to vote and select meeting date. Time is TBA.
- Location is needed. Virtual event? Could press conference be done outside if the weather is nice? People's Park in Annapolis, MD. There is a wide range of available parking available.
- It was recommended to host press conference at 11 am in the morning to give time for those at work or elsewhere an opportunity to attend or tune in.
- Press statement will be used a press conference (pieces) for MD LTRC to use as talking point. Each organization will have the statement.
- **Future Discussion:** How do we create a buzz for this press conference event? How do we share with media outlets?

- Chair Fakunle will create and share document to help create a guest list for the upcoming Press Conference. MD LTRC wants to ensure we invite other organization and affiliations.

b. Special Announcement

- MD LTRC has been awarded 350,000 from the Department of Justice to continue and support the MD LTRC mission and purpose with the reconciliation against racial terror lynching in MD. MD LTRC wants to elevate MD HBCU Institutional involvement: Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and University of Eastern Shore.
- MD LTRC is looking to reach out and obtain support for our work and mission from black oriented organizations committed to justice.

**Announcements Comments from the Public**

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- Summit tonight 11/9/2020 discussing representation from colonial times to now – (Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Armenti)
- Hosanna School museum. National Indigenous day. Program with artist Cynthia St. James. And virtual sip and paint. This event will be held Wednesday, November 11, 2020

**Adjourned:** 1:31 p.m.