

**NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY COMMISSION ON REPARATIONS REMEDIES  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, February 15, 2025**

**Location: Renaissance Albany Hotel, 144 State Street, Albany, NY 12207**

**Members Present: Commissioner Dr. Seanelle Hawkins, Commissioner Dr. Deborah Jenkins, Commissioner Dr. Ron Daniels, Commissioner Lurie Daniel Favors, Esq., Commissioner Timothy Hogues, Commissioner Linda Tarrant-Reid, Commissioner Linda Brown-Robinson, Commissioner Dr. Darrick Hamilton**

**Member Excused: Commissioner Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.,**

## **Welcome Remarks and Greetings**

The business meeting of the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies (NYSCCRR) was called to order by Chair Hawkins at 10:28 a.m. Chair Hawkins recognized President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, thanking her for attending and for appointing her to the Commission. Senator Stewart-Cousins then addressed the attendees about the charge the Commission was given and their commitment to help tell the story of slavery in New York State and the residual impacts and effects. She spoke about the need for New Yorkers to tell their stories and how it is more important than ever, as people are trying to erase and deny the history.

Introduction of Commissioners Linda Brown-Robinson, Linda Tarrant-Reid, Dr. Ron Daniels, Dr. Deborah Jenkins, Tim Hogues, Lurie Daniels Favors, and Darrick Hamilton.

## **Update on the work of the Commission**

Chair Hawkins provided updates on the Commission's work and introduced the newly hired Executive Director Dr. Makini Chisolm-Straker who started with the Commission in January 2025.

The Chair also shared that the Commission has written a letter to the Governor and the Legislature requesting an extension to do the work and submit a complete and thorough final report.

Chair Hawkins also spoke about the opportunities available to work with the Commission and directed the public to the Commission's website – [www.ny.gov/reparations](http://www.ny.gov/reparations)

Chair Hawkins noted a desire for the public's awareness and comfortability with even knowing that the Commission exists and how they can stay updated on its efforts. She also announced the next meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> being held in her hometown of Rochester, NY inviting everyone to join, letting it be known that the theme will be urban renewal. Chair Hawkins acknowledged the importance of hearing from the community and informed that people should come with a prepared statement as they think about what they believe the Commission should be working on where are there opportunities for remedies of the harms of slavery.

Chair Hawkins outlined that the Commission is tasked with examining the legacy of slavery, subsequent discrimination against people of African descendant, the impact of these forces and how the impact continues to represent into this present day. Chair Hawkins further stated that the Commission must comprise a report of recommendations for the appropriate actions to address these longstanding inequities. Again, for this they are requesting an extension. Chair Hawkins spoke about the need for the public's support for the Commission's extension of about eighteen months to complete the work as they continue their valiant efforts.

## **Other Business**

Commissioner Jenkins added clarification to the calendar, bearing in mind that the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Syracuse is confirmed, the April meeting is being planned for the Bronx, not Syracuse. Chair Hawkins commented that while there will continue to be updates on the website, the March 4<sup>th</sup> date is solidified.

As Chair Hawkins concluded the business meeting at 10:47 a.m. to commence the public hearing, she made room for Senator James Sanders, Jr. to address the community.

Senator James Sanders, Jr. commented, "Welcome to history". He recognized Andrea Stewart-Cousins as the best leader, along with the members of the Commission. He advised the community that this is not a spectator sport, so please participate.