

NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY COMMISSION ON REPARATIONS REMEDIES

Business Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 1, 2025

Location: Brooklyn Public Library, 286 Cadman Plaza W, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Members Present: Commissioner Dr. Seanelle Hawkins, Commissioner Linda Tarrant-Reid, Commissioner Dr. Ron Daniels, Commissioner Timothy R. Hogues, Parliamentarian Stuart J. Mitchell III, Commissioner Linda Brown-Robinson, Commissioner Dr. Darrick Hamilton, and Commissioner Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq.

Via Zoom: Commissioner Lurie Daniel Favors, Esq.

Member Excused: Commissioner Dr. Deborah Jenkins

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Hawkins called the business meeting of the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies (NYSCCRR) to order at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed attendees and apologized for the prior evening's canceled public meeting due to the Brooklyn Downtown Library's early closure caused by inclement weather. She acknowledged the effort of those who traveled to attend.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Hawkins requested a motion to approve the April 10, 2025, meeting minutes. **Motion:**

Commissioner Hogues moved to approve the April 10, 2025, minutes.

Second: Commissioner Tarrant-Reid seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was moved and carried unanimously after re-taking the vote to include abstentions.

III. Updates

Chair Hawkins announced that contracts had been finalized for the Policy Analyst, Historian, and Administrative Assistant (all contracted positions via the Office of General Services RFP process). She also noted that job postings are available at www.ny.gov/reparations.

IV. Discussion: Facilitated Small Group Session Summary

Commissioners reviewed a consultant-prepared summary of small group discussions on defining reparations. Several commissioners expressed concern that the summary overemphasized direct payments over community investments. Chair Hawkins clarified that this was a consultant's draft, not Commission policy. Commissioners agreed to review the document and submit written feedback to the Secretary by August 22, 2025. There was discussion about the consultant's vetting process; Chair Hawkins confirmed proper procedural vetting occurred, though not via the full RFP process.

V. Voting Procedures Clarification

Chair Hawkins clarified that, under NYS General Construction Law Section 41, five affirmative votes of the nine commissioners are required to pass resolutions, regardless of the number present as long as quorum is met. A motion to remove a 'supermajority' requirement from the agenda was approved.

VI. Vice Chair Election Compliance

It was determined that the prior Vice Chair election did not meet the required five affirmative votes; a re-vote is necessary. The Commission agreed to hold a special meeting to conduct the Vice Chair vote and potentially address other election-related compliance matters. Questions regarding term limits, election procedures, and impacts on other Executive Committee roles will be referred to OGS for guidance.

VII. Executive Session

Motion: Commissioner Linda Tarrant-Reid moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel and administrative matters. **Second:** Commissioner Darrick Hamilton seconded the motion. **Vote:** The motion carried unanimously. Public and media were excused. The executive session concluded with no public votes taken.

VIII. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. following a motion passed unanimously.