

**NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY COMMISSION ON REPARATIONS REMEDIES
Business Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2024**

Location: Elim Christian Fellowship Church, 70 Chalmers Avenue, Buffalo, New York

Members Present: Commissioner Dr. Seanelle Hawkins, Commissioner Timothy Hogues

Members Present: Commissioner Linda Brown-Robinson, Commissioner Linda Tarrant-Reid, Commissioner Lurie Daniel Favors, Esq., Commissioner Dr. Deborah Jenkins and Commissioner Jennifer Jones Austin attended via Zoom

Member Excused: Commissioner Dr. Darrick Hamilton, Commissioner Dr. Ron Daniels

I. Welcome Remarks and Greetings

The first public meeting of the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies (NYSCCRR) was called to order by Chair Hawkins at 5:32 p.m. She welcomed attendees, particularly thanking Elim Church for hosting the event, and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to discuss justice and healing on such a significant day.

II. Introduction

The agenda included readings and remarks, with introductions from Commissioners Jenkins, Tarrant-Reid, and Daniel Favors. Chair Hawkins also acknowledged the local history and the Buffalo community, expressing excitement about learning from them to better understand the unique contributions of Buffalo to New York State's history.

Commissioner Hogues ensured that everyone had the chance to sign up to speak and outlined the speaking time process. He also clarified that those who didn't wish to speak could still submit written testimony.

Commissioner Hogues thanked dignitaries in attendance, including County Legislator Jeanne Vinal and former Erie County Legislator Betty Jean Grant.

Pastor Lewis expressed appreciation for the Buffalo community's involvement.

III. Our Local History Presentation

The NYSCCRR's Public Meeting featured a presentation by Our Local History, a statewide program dedicated to educating communities about civil rights and activism.

Shane Wiegand and Kesha James from Our Local History gave a presentation highlighting the impacts of slavery in Buffalo and across New York State. Chair Hawkins thanked the group for their contribution, noting that Buffalo had set a high standard for future public hearings.

IV. Q&A with Commissioners

Chair Dr. Hawkins confirmed that the meeting was being recorded and streamed live on the Commission's website for wider participation. Commissioner Hogues assured that the meeting would be archived, allowing individuals to view it later and provide feedback.

Commissioner Hogues acknowledged the presence of a representative from Congressman Tim Kennedy's office and expressed condolences for Mayor Scanlon's absence due to a family loss.

V. Break

The meeting proceeded without a break, moving directly into the public comment portion, where members of the Buffalo community were invited to share their thoughts on the topic of reparations.

VI. Public Comment