

NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY COMMISSION ON REPARATIONS REMEDIES

Business and Public Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 24, 2025

Locations: Rochester, NY - Neighborhood Hub, 1st Floor, Auditorium - 616 N. Goodman St, Rochester, NY 14609 & New York, NY - FPWA Conference Center - 40 Broad St, New York, NY 10004

Members Present (NYC): Vice Chair Dr. Deborah Jenkins; Secretary Linda Tarrant-Reid; Commissioner Lurie Daniel Favors; Commissioner Dr. Ron Daniels; and Commissioner Dr. Darrick Hamilton.

Members Present (Rochester): Chair Dr. Seanelle Hawkins; Commissioner Timothy Hogues; Parliamentarian Stuart Mitchell

Members Not Present: Commissioner Linda Brown-Robinson and Commissioner Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq .

Staff Acknowledgments: Thank you: Erica Rowe Owen; Jessy Adwar; NYS Office of General Services (OGS) support.

Acknowledgments: Thank you: FPWA (NYC) and Connected Communities Business Hub (Rochester) for hosting and A/V support; appreciation to state leadership and legislative partners.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Hawkins called the meeting to order, welcomed all participants, and acknowledged the dual-site meeting locations. She thanked the hosts, staff, and commissioners for their continued commitment.

II. Roll Call / Quorum

Secretary Linda Tarrant-Reid conducted roll call. Quorum confirmed.

III. Approval of Minutes

August 1, 2025 minutes were posted for review. Formal acceptance deferred to the next business meeting.

IV. PowerPoint Overview

Chair Hawkins reviewed the business meeting PowerPoint, which outlined consultant updates, timelines, and planned resolutions.

V. Old Business

A. Vice Chair Election Compliance: OGS Counsel affirmed prior election as compliant (GCL §41 / Morris v. Cashmore). No further action required.

Videoconferencing Resolution

B. Whereas: the Commission has carefully studied, discussed and prepared the resolution titled "New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies Procedures for Member Videoconferencing Pursuant to Public Officers Law 103-a";

And Whereas: the resolution conforms with the regulations of the New York State Open Meeting Law and best practices as presented by the Roberts Rules of Order;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved the Commission hereby adopts the videoconferencing resolution;

Be it further Resolved: the videoconferencing resolution has been posted on the NYSCRR website.

Motion made by Commissioner Timothy Hogue

Motion seconded by Secretary Linda Tarrant-Reid

Action: Motion Adopted with one abstention

Public Comment Resolution

C. Whereas, the NYSCRR is committed to fostering transparent, inclusive and equitable engagement with the public;

And whereas the Commission has created rules and procedures for public comment during Commission meetings to ensure that all voices are heard and considered;

And Whereas amendments made and accepted;

Be it Therefore Resolved: that the Commission adopts the resolution with amendments titled "New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies Public Comment Policy".

Be It Further Resolved: that this Public Comment Policy is effective immediately and is posted on the NYSCRR website.

Motion made by Commissioner Lurie Daniel Favors

Motion Seconded Commissioner Timothy Hogue

Action: Motion adopted unanimously

Resolution to Adopt Framework of UN Definition of Reparations and Resolution to Adopt Reparations Commission Working Definition of Reparations

D. Whereas the NYSCCRR is dedicated to engaging New Yorker statewide in addressing the legacies of slavery and systemic discrimination. Through community engagement and rigorous research, the commission strives to develop meaningful, actionable recommendations for reparative policies that foster justice and equity across New York State;

And Whereas the Commission has adopted the UN definition of reparations framework as its foundation and created a working definition of Reparations: emphasizing authentic acknowledgment and repair of material and psychological harm;

Be it therefore resolved: the commission effective immediately adopts a Working Definition of Reparations as stated:

“Reparations is a process that authentically repairs and acknowledges the physical, cultural, psychological, mental, material, and/or physical destruction, injury, and/or harm of a people and/or society, including their identity. It includes processes of repairing, healing, and restoring a people and society who were injured due to their group identity in violation of their fundamental human rights by governments, corporations, institutions, and/or individuals.”

And Be It Further Resolved: the UN Definition of Reparations Framework and Working Definition of Reparations will be posted on the NYSCCRR website.

Motion made by Commissioner Dr. Darrick Hamilton

Motion seconded Commissioner Lurie Daniel Favors

Action: motion adopted unanimously

VI. Key Updates & Reports

A. Executive Committee: Chair Hawkins thanked staff and commissioners for behind-the-scenes work and noted progress on consultant evaluations and RFPs.

B. Consultant Hiring: Economist selection in progress; policy analyst, researcher/historian, and education coordinator actively engaged. General Counsel interviews and Executive Director recruitment ongoing.

C. Communications & Research Updates: Secretary Tarrant-Reid reported progress on communications strategy, newsletters, and media outreach. Research historian finalizing historical outline (1626–present). Policy subcommittee coordinating with advocacy networks (N’COBRA, NAARC, ADOS).

VII. Commissioner Engagement & Subcommittees

Liaisons confirmed:

- Economist: Chair Hawkins & Dr. Hamilton
- Policy: Dr. Jenkins
- Historian: Linda Tarrant-Reid
- Public Education: Timothy Hogues & Deborah Jenkins
- Legal: Lurie Daniel Favors
- Governance: Linda Tarrant-Reid with Parliamentarian Mitchell
- Operations/Executive Director: Chair Hawkins

Liaisons provide strategic oversight, coordination, and cross-functional support alongside staff.

VIII. Timeline & Work Plan

Chair Hawkins reviewed the proposed timeline leading to the January 2027 statutory deadline. Commissioners discussed adjustments to ensure adequate review and public education periods.

Approved Work Plan:

- Now – May 2026: Active consultant work, public hearings, and business meetings.
- June 2026: Draft report due.
- July–August 2026: Commission review and feedback.
- September 2026: Final revisions and acceptance (majority vote).
- December 2026: Submission to Governor and Legislature.
- Jan–Mar 2027: Community education and advocacy on recommendations.

Motion made by Commissioner Timothy Hogues

Motion seconded Commissioner Deborah Jenkins

Action: motion adopted unanimously

IX. New Business & Other Matters

Discussion of meeting security protocols (professional security present at each venue). Commissioners emphasized promoting hearing themes and encouraging attendance at the Brooklyn public hearing. Clarified that commissioners serve without compensation and acknowledged staff support.

X. Announcements

Next public hearing: Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 4:00–8:00 p.m., Bethany Baptist Church, 460 Marcus Garvey Blvd, Brooklyn, NY.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Chair Hawkins thanked all commissioners and community attendees for their dedication and participation.

These minutes reflect decisions and clarifications made on the record and are intended for posting to [NY.gov/reparations](https://www.ny.gov/reparations) upon approval.