NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY COMMISSION ON REPARATIONS REMEDIES

Business Meeting Minutes - Final

Friday, March 13, 2026 - 3:00 PM to 6:15 PM

Locations: The Co-op Community Center, 177 Dreiser Loop Bronx, NY 10475 and The Memorial Art Gallery (Ballroom), 500 University Ave Rochester, NY 14607

Commissioners Present (Bronx): Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Deborah Jenkins, Secretary Linda Tarrant-Reid, Lurie Daniel Favors, and Dr. Ron Daniels

Commissioners Present (Rochester): Chair Dr. Seanelle Hawkins, Commissioner Timothy Hogues and Parliamentarian Stuart Mitchell

Commissioners excused: Treasurer Jennifer Jones Austin, Dr. Darrick Hamilton, and Linda Brown-Robinson

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Dr. Seanelle Hawkins called the Business Meeting to order and welcomed commissioners, staff, and members of the public observing via livestream. The Chair acknowledged the dual-site meeting format being conducted simultaneously in New York City and Rochester.

I. Roll Call

Commissioner and Secretary Linda Tarrant-Reid conducted the roll call. A quorum was confirmed.

III. Approval of Minutes

At the request of Commissioner Linda Tarrant-Reid, approval of the January 9, 2026, meeting minutes was postponed until the next regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

IV. Old Business

A presentation was made by Words Warriors regarding the NYSCCRR Strategic Communications Plan, presented by Miles Caggins III, CEO, Words Warriors.

Mr. Caggins and his team, Jessica Lopez, Meghan Sowersby and Richelle Carey presented a detailed PowerPoint highlighting accomplishments to date and plans for future communications efforts designed to inform the public about:

- Upcoming Public Hearings
- Future Commission Business Meetings
- 30 Public Workshops being planned under the direction of the newly appointed Public Education Coordinator

The PowerPoint presentation is available for public review on the Commission's website:

- Deployment of "street teams" to reach individuals living and working in local areas selected for Public Hearings and Business Meetings.
- Development of paid partnerships to increase visibility of the Commission's work.
- Special effort to reach ethnic media outlets.
- Efforts to tell the story of the Commission's work through national media interviews.
- Implementation of direct mailing campaign.
- Production of public service announcements with urban media outlets.

Commissioners offered several suggestions and recommendations regarding additional community resources and outreach strategies.

Commissioners also discussed the critical importance of local community organizing in areas where hearings and events are scheduled.

Mr. Caggins stressed the importance of having fixed dates for Public Hearings and meetings at least four weeks in advance to maximize public engagement.

V. Hiring Updates

Chair Dr. Seanelle Hawkins reported that the hiring process for the next Executive Director is in progress, and that an announcement will be made within the next two weeks.

VI. New Business

Chair Hawkins announced that the Commission will postpone discussion of the following items:

- The proposed absence policy
- The Commission's working definition of harm

The Chair further announced that the General Counsel has reviewed the Commission's definition of reparations and prepared recommendations, which will be discussed at a future Business Meeting.

Resolution Adopted

New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies

Proposed Resolution Regarding Review and Adoption Process for Proposed Commission Bylaws

Adopted: March 13, 2026
Location: Regular Business Meeting of the Commission

WHEREAS

The New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies is authorized to adopt bylaws governing the conduct of its meetings and the orderly transaction of Commission business; and

WHEREAS the Commission's General Counsel, in consultation with the Parliamentarian, prepared a draft set of proposed bylaws for the governance of the Commission; and

WHEREAS the draft bylaws were distributed to all nine Commissioners prior to the March 13, 2026, Business Meeting for preliminary review and consideration; and

WHEREAS the Commission wishes to provide Commissioners the opportunity to review the draft bylaws and submit suggested revisions prior to final consideration and adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Commission formally receives the draft bylaws prepared by the General Counsel and Parliamentarian for review by the Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioners may submit proposed revisions to the General Counsel during the period March 16, 2026, through 5:00 PM on March 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Counsel, with assistance from the Parliamentarian, shall review submitted revisions and prepare a finalized draft of the proposed bylaws, which shall be distributed to the Commissioners no later than April 2, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall consider and vote on adoption of the proposed bylaws at the regular Business Meeting scheduled for April 10, 2026, in accordance with applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Law and the Commission's parliamentary procedures.

Motion and Vote

A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Commissioner Timothy Hogues and seconded by Commissioner Linda Tarrant-Reid.

Upon vote of the Commissioners present, the motion carried with one abstention.

Chair Hawkins reported and Commissioners discussed the upcoming Public Hearing scheduled for March 21, 2026, in Staten Island, New York.

Chair Hawkins also led a discussion regarding the Commission's master schedule, including a general review of events currently scheduled through December 11, 2026. A copy of the proposed master schedule is available on the Commission website. Chair Hawkins emphasized the importance of maintaining the fixed schedule and scope of work required to achieve the Commission's goal of publishing a draft report by June 2026.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further agenda items to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Timothy Hogues and seconded by Commissioner Linda Tarrant-Reid.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.