



**Reparations Task Force Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6 p.m.**

Location: Fulton County Government Center Assembly Hall, 141 Pryor St SW, Atlanta, GA
30303

Zoom:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/Tn2UyTmHDsgAhVTymmVri67rSwqvhCsw6s03kWggMtwJN_3qgg-YIFOem6vwhRG.kyz/SixxqnUxN8u_Y

POST AGENDA MINUTES – RATIFIED

This document has been ratified or approved by the Fulton County Reparations Task Force and is not binding on the County or any officer.

****A QUORUM WAS PRESENT****

Roll Call: Mike Russell, Elon Osby, Amanda Meng, Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Marcus Coleman, Ann Hill Bond, Donte’ Thompson. (Excused: Michael Simanga, Carole Sykes, Greg Fann, Rodney Littles)

Staff Present: Fran Calhoun, Jordana Arias

Adoption of January 18, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Motion to adopt by Donte’ Thompson. Motion is seconded by Marcus Coleman. Motion passes.

Approval of December 7, 2023 Minutes

Motion to adopt by Elon Osby. Motion is seconded by Donte’ Thompson. Motion passes.

Public Comments (see end of Minutes)

New Business

- Hiring Updates
- Research Update

- Presentation of Research on Fulton County Slave Owner: [Unearthing Slavery Presentation](#) by Christopher Smothers, Luther King and Abyssinia Mulatu
 - Questions from Mr. Russell:
 - Q: My great great grandparents were enslaved in Texas. And so we don't know anything about our family history passed two generations back. And you mentioned that if you can trace your family to 1870, then you can pick them up on the census. What do you do if you can't do that?
 - A: There's so many different approaches that you can take. I will begin with birth records. Get all your birth record information. Depending on how recent it is, if it's 2 generations back then, they may already be in the public domain.
 - Q: You know, you see these commercials about these DNA tests, what is your opinion on that? Are those worth it? I mean for somebody to tell me that your ancestry came from West Africa that doesn't really do me good right?
 - A: Okay, so the most tangible use for all those is the genetic matches that you get.
 - Q: Have you been able to connect them to people who are alive today here in Georgia?
 - A: Yes that's the exact purpose. I've already identified over 300 people. So I can take that information to the 1870 census and then trace the descendants, look at those marriage licenses, look at the migration patterns, because we know there's a mass migration to Chicago, New York, Ohio.
 - Q: So if you, when you present this information to a family member, what is their reaction?
 - A: Anger is one of the first. And then, you know, they start to go through a grieving process. Then I feel like only once we understand that they exist, we can start to heal as a community. And, start to make informed decisions about how we want to experience our future.
 - Questions from Chair Sims-Alvarado:
 - Q: Can you share with us how you have names of individuals for slaveholders?
 - A: This information is extracted directly from the pages of the slave schedules.
 - Q: How do you fill in the names of slaveholders from 1850 to 1860, how do you go about doing that?
 - A: It's taken every 10 years. The next one was done in 1860. So in that, a new list is created and enumerated. And the man who enumerated the 1860 census was a slave owner himself.
 - Q: When you put this wonderful photograph of the log cabin, and it's rare to actually find a schedule of a house. And I'm wondering if this the house of the slaveholder is this a slave dwelling? And I'm looking at it and. I'm reading the inventory. And. I guess it's an

assessment of the estate. And I'm looking at the value of the individuals that you mentioned. I want to call their names. Charlotte, Busley, Jerry, Gilbert, Martina, the total value is \$8,500. But if you were to look at the value of the land, 350 acres of land that these individuals tilled the soil and worked on and produce goods, provide services, created additional wealth for this family, the total value of that person's land is \$10,000 which means that the total value of the individuals who make a part of this estate is 85% of the total value of the land. The cow is valued at \$175 which comes to, I believe 1/12 of an individual of an adult. So 12 cows will make up the value of one, the life of the value of one human being, of one adult. So, you know, just looking at that is very moving, but I'm reading the 350 acres of land and I'm thinking about the 5 individuals including children. Who till that soil. We work the land and produce goods for this family. And then for them not to be removed from the record. You find them again in 1870. And they're trying their best to live their free lives in Fulton County and that's so moving. And then to see this picture of this infamous slave auction house. At 8 Whitehall street, which is now Peachtree Street. I see that there's Wall Street, that's the intersection, and how strangely that is Wall Street. If you look closely, you see the railroad tracks. And this lets me know that this railroad track is the domestic middle passage in the United States. That this is how individuals are being trafficked in. And I can imagine the bodies coming up Peachtree Street in shackles. And I can hear the sound of it. And then they're placed in this house and their bodies will be sold. You all did such a great job and providing these beautiful graphs and I love that you provided the gender, the number of males and females, and they were equal. And I'm thinking about the young girls and young boys, the teenagers that are inside this slave auction house are equal in number. And we know about the slave yards that existed. In downtown Atlanta. I have just imagine like as people walking to work, they're going on their daily lives, that they could very well be passing by a group of individuals and sizing young boys and girls up to be purchased, to be traded. What is really remarkable about the graphs, we were to look at. Just take any of them. You did such a wonderful job. Looking at Atlanta Township. I'm looking at the number of males and females. And there's a sum of 522 enslaved individuals. Can you explain for me how the age drops off and who is the majority of the enslaved individuals? What is the approximate age group?

- A: So the majority of enslaved individuals within the Atlanta township were female. And I would say it was about an average of 320, and 202 men.
- Q: And what's the approximate age group? Are they mainly teenagers? Are they in the 20s, 30s, 50s?

- A: We have the highest group being Males between 30 and 40. There are also some individuals, I saw by analyzing the data, there were some individuals, as old as 70 years old.
 - Q: Yeah. But the numbers drop off so dramatically. And it makes me wonder, I mean, you see how people, I mean, what becomes of them? Do they die? Do they run away? So people could be worked today and die at a very young age, relatively speaking
 - A: All of the above is possible.
 - A: There is another schedule that the federal census taker would have taken called the mortality schedule. In that mortality schedule, you'll see if any enslaved persons died underneath the care or ownership up there former older. So that's a whole other dataset that we haven't even taken inventory of yet.
- Comments from Vice Chair Coleman:
 - I just wanted to state it on the record, because you and I have had a couple of conversations off line. I have talked about this brilliant group of young black excellence to everybody that I could probably talk to. I've been excited. The executive committee for the record had a brief preview. So I've just been excited about seeing the full thing. But I do want to put on the record as anybody familiar with a news story out of Fulton County that is national and international from about a month ago where the chief probate court judge found these wills of slave owners. If anybody in here saw that, can you raise your hand? Well, considering that we're doing this work, it just kind of falls right in place. And so I just want to share with the public and put it on the record that Madame Chair, myself and Christopher we actually met with that particular judge and not only has she agreed to open up the records or Christopher to just dive in and dissect is such a lethal weapon, and it's not just Christopher, it's Luther and Aby. But I want to make sure it's understood that there's also, correct, Madam Chair, a warehouse full of documents that we will have access to as well so you guys already see what this awesome group of Black excellence does. So now we're gonna have, they're going to have access to a very target warehouse, a very targeted area, meaning focusing on Fulton County. So I just want to put that out there over the record. I mean, what a blessing in disguise that records from probate court pop up, so as Madame Chair, it's the ancestors speaking.
 - Comments from Ms. Elon Butts Osby
 - I'd like to share something with you all. I had the pleasure, and that's debatable I'm sure, of meeting a descendant of the slave owners of my great grandparents. And he showed me a copy of the will where his ancestor willed my great grandparents to his brother when he died. And I say it's debatable when I say the pleasure of it because he was hesitant, he didn't think I would want to meet him, and talk to him, but I looked at it as an opportunity. You know, to

learn more, to gain more information and, you know, just, the information like you said, you can just get to 1870. And so that's the way I looked at it. But I mean, you know, when you see them on paper, somebody owned them, and somebody is just handing them off like I can with this bottle of water. There's a feeling there. I still don't know what to call that feeling but at the same time these are your people and you see them. And it makes them more real.

■ Question from Mr. Russel:

- Q: Have you ever confronted a person whose family were slave owners? And what was their reaction when they learned of their family history?
- A: Well, if they're on ancestry.com and they're building family trees... You know, it's interesting... Some people don't even have the slave schedules where their ancestors owned slaves. Whereas other people do. Just recently, as I was preparing my PhD application I reached out to the woman who had recorded the family of my own enslaved ancestor and she had done substantial research. I said I need to talk to this woman because there's something, there's something that's missing from this story. I wanted to understand where my ancestors were purchased. They were enslaved in Louisiana and Mississippi. So I wanted to reach out to her so she could expound a little bit about how my ancestors were acquired. And at first she was very hesitant. She was like, I don't know who this guy is, who are you talking about? You know, and eventually, once I broke down to her, look, this is you, this is them, this is how you're related. They're in your tree. She was able to confirm like okay yes this is my great aunt's husband, you know, something like that and this family and I've been researching them for a while and we kind of began to collaborate on certain parts of that research. And while she, she had the origin story, the ancestors of her White ancestors. I was seeking the origin story of my enslaved African ancestors and she was able to fill in some information for me but I could tell that it lacked depth, you know. What she understood lacked depth because what she understood was not the fullest extent of the substantial nature of how many people, it was over 150 people. So she didn't really understand what was driving the sustainability of that family and. I can talk all, you know, all day about this. I went to Emory here in Atlanta to pull the financial account papers of that family and I was able to see the direct revenue and profit that they made every single year. And how much they were paying in taxes every single year on each enslaved person. Situations like that kinda open your eyes to how you know this information isn't lost forever the civil war did not destroy everything And, that narrative has always been there always and it's just been waiting to be built back.

- Comments from Secretary Meng
 - I wanted to commend you all on your work. Something that stands out to me from my background is the effort that goes into taking these records and making them machine readable because they weren't to start with so to build those visualizations. And also to situate that in a legacy of black data activism that has been done in this city and across the southeast and across the country is really powerful. And, we call that counter data action. And I think it's also important to note that these records that are federal and that are county mean that the federal government and the county government are responsible. They have a role to play in making these accessible and preserving them and making them public and the fact that you all are doing this work to make it public, make it machine readable so that other people can continue to build on this research is really amazing and really incredible so thank you.
- Comments from Ms Ann Hill Bond
 - So one thing that I'm thinking through is around the fact that we are speaking at a fairly high level, right? In a lot of the communities that will be impacted by what is created here, the internet is an issue, literacy is an issue. There's a lot of barriers. So I just want to see like how we are thinking through in that space, or what are we thinking through in that space? And then also through your work in what you're currently looking at, right? We have some information around like what the value is of an enslaved person at the time. So when you're thinking long term, what would be a thought around like if reparations were to be done, this is what it is based on this information. You know, because I also feel like we, we have these conversations and we have these conversations again at a very high level, but for the person. You know, what's good for the 8 year old is good for the 88 year old. So for the 8 year old and the 88 year old to understand how this impacts them, if we could just come down a little for people, to be able to really understand what this is. Because I do think like everyone else that this is a beautiful document. I love it. However, I'm thinking about those barriers.
 - Response: Resources like ancestry.com are behind a pay wall. I personally have a problem with having to pay to refund your ancestors. We don't have any power over that. I'm not going to throw shade. But there is another website called FamilySearch.org and FamilySearch.org is the world's largest family history library. You can create a free account and access a lot of information at your fingertips. But if you don't have internet access, most of the records are at your local library or genealogy section or room. However, what would be really optimal and ideal would be to create a research center here in Fulton County so people can access this information and these records on-site, up-close, and in-person.

- Comment and question from Chair Sims-Alvarado
 - Chair asks: Without providing an academic response, I just want you to give me this real response as honest and authentic as you can provide. What was your response as you were going through this process and reading these documents? I mean, Was it new for you? Can you just share the process? Did you experience anything in the process as your Coming across names and learning stories.
 - Christopher: I want everybody to answer because I feel like it's something so personal. So we'll start with Luther.
 - Luther: Absolutely. Through our research, diving into it, we explored a number of files and a number of logs on ancestry and it was quite amazing to see the age range of the people who were enslaved. Considering the fact that someone who is only 60 years old today, you know like our average grandparent, like you couldn't imagine that person being enslaved and being worked every day, you know, from birth. I thought it was quite amazing.
 - Aby: And another thing as well, like, straight from the data, seeing how many kids were enslaved, like, born into slavery. They didn't have no choice. You know, like, it's just crazy to see. And we even had a couple of like older, like adults 103 years old as well. That's shocking as well. Like how, how could somebody that old be enslaved. It was crazy and devastating.
 - Christopher: They hit it on the nail. Just think about this. You're a 103 years old in 1815, 1816. You witnessed the nation before it was a nation. I can't even describe to you to go fo from a place of complete rule. Indigenous people are walking around because this is their home. Right and to go from a place of bondage before the 13 colonies are the 13 colonies into something that is vastly and rapidly organizing is profound... Okay, I don't have enough time. But I deal with this at all. And I regularly have to numb myself in order to do this research. Cause it's so emotional and in order to think rationally and apply the correct methodology, I have to think about all the possibilities and there are many. When it comes to properly investigating and reclaiming the identities of enslaved people. Because not every person was enslaved. Some people were, I'm sorry, not every person was enslaved by white people. Some people enslaved by the "civilized" tribes of indigenous descent. Okay. So, the narrative is so much more complex than we give it credit for. But, in this particular project, I thought it's unusual because Fulton County wasn't a thing until 1853 So you have a smaller time period and time frame to assess the information. So to see how quickly, rapidly, you know, rapidly these numbers are increasing and that, you know, the mass migrations, to Fulton County and to see that they're are centenarians that are still being marched from Savannah to Fulton County, you know, at this time period and all over Georgia and all

over, you know, the rest of the country is really heartbreaking to see to think about people walking in chains across states. To this newly developing area. So emotional, but necessary.

- Chair comments: One final thing, someone may ask, well, what does this mean to Fulton County? And I'm looking at Mr. Hornsby and his estate. Total value of the state, if you were to look at the land, the cow, some of the other farm animals, and those who were enslaved it comes to a little less than \$19,000 and of the total amount the value of his total estate, almost half of his total estate comes from individuals who are enslaved. And so the county received taxes from the land and from those who were enslaved. So there's a benefit to the county for having individuals enslaved and we need to know. What is that value? And we will also begin to see how Fulton County is part of the slaveocracy.
- Question from Vice Chair:
 - Before our last presenter, any of your mind, can you share your ages? Cause I've mentioned a lot about the youth that just wanted on the record. Please.
 - Christopher: I'm 24.
 - Aby: I'm 24 as well.
 - Luther: I'm 28.
 - We know that people have been fighting on behalf of reparations long before I was born. We know that right now we're trying to strengthen this generational cohesiveness, camaraderie. Why at 24, 24, and 28? The dedication that you guys are obviously displaying. There's so much other stuff that you could be doing in 24. I know what I was doing at 24 or 28. Please just go on record. Why is this work important? And what do you hope to see?
 - Christopher: Okay, so this, that's a loaded question. This work is very personal. I think in order to understand myself as a Black man in America, I need to understand what I'm fighting against. I need to understand who and what the enemy does. And unless you know or else I'll do the work on behalf of the enemy. So I want to make sure that not only do I understand that legacy, but the resilience and who we are the tenacity to overcome so much and understand better the spirituality that we possess.
 - Aby: Honestly, when I've heard about the task force, I was very interested because I never heard of a group of individuals like actually aiming to get reparations back to the community and just hearing about it was very interesting and it kind of intrigued me, so doing this research, I feel like it's very essential for Black people to get reparations. It's long overdue. So I'm glad that you know, hopefully everybody will get their reparations back.

- Luther: As a part of my Master's in data science and meeting Dr. Karcheik, I felt that this opportunity was God-ordained for me to be a part of it. And I'm just honored to do work for my people. And I'm also, I'm also all for my education, furthering my education, a lot of our ancestors weren't able to get their education. And so that's why today I started getting my master's degree.
- Presentation from Latron Price on agriculture and land in the conversation of reparations

Close of Meeting

Mr Donte' Thompson states:

I wanna thank everyone for coming out tonight. I want to thank the researchers As you were talking, one thing that kept coming to my mind is the modern day slavery that we don't talk about that is affecting Black Women. The US Department of Justice said human trafficking affects Black Women or Black People 40%. I think that is a conversation that we need to talk about but with the research that you're presenting that's the first thing that came to my mind, modern day slavery. Thank you to the NAACP for coming as well. Ms. Thompson, thank you so much for coming as well. I know that took a lot of courage to come here and say that, but thank you so much. I think a lot of people in our community, from both sides, need to come together to talk about this. I think that if we as a community can have these healing conversations, we can move forward. Mr. Price, I definitely agree with you. When we have this conversation about reparations, I wish that a lot of people would talk more about land. Thank you so much.

Vice Chair Coleman states:

First, Madam Chair, I was hoping that, and this should probably be directed to Ms. Calhoun, considering that Atlanta is in the process of building the seats for their reparations task force, I was hoping that maybe we could, maybe it's the executive committee if need be, get on the schedule of the commissioners when they meet with all of the mayors of Fulton County. Considering the work that we have to do with the municipalities. I know, Madam Chair, we spoke about a letter put out to all the mayors, but considering the commissioners meet with all the mayors, I just wanted to see where we could go with that.

I must say this. And thank you to everybody that has come out and everybody that is in attendance. You know, Madam Chair, and other members of this task force, I don't know how you guys feel, but I'm assuming you probably feel like I do. I'm glad that I am solid in knowing that the work that we're doing is meaningful because what will happen today, since the press is here, they will put out that here we go again with a very slim crowd. How embarrassing? To be in the birth place of Dr. Martin Luther King, to just celebrate King Day. How embarrassing? As I look out at this empty room, with much conviction of us finishing the work. And just sitting here with thoughts of how full this room will be as soon as it's time to put something on record here. You, you gotta forgive me because I've been so many King Day celebrations and I mean, I guess people forget. Dr. King was assassinated at 39 years old. Reparations was a major priority on his

plate. Being from this city and knowing the different things that move us politically, it is embarrassing for the amount of times that this place has been empty. Now I must say this, Madam Chair, many people have told me it is because of the time. They have stated that on a Thursday at 6:00 PM, it is difficult for working folks to get in here. And I can understand that. But I will never cease with the shaming of a community that claims to be the cradle of the civil rights movement that celebrates Dr. King, when it comes to That's Dr. Bernice King said, the convenient way to honor her father. So again, I'm thankful for everyone on this task force for your commitment and for those who continue to come because whether these seats are filled or not, the work is going to get done, but I must say I am very disappointed in a place that I call home. Here we are out here, truly walking the walk of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, but so many of us would just rather... I would pause on that. I think I have one other thing, Madam Chair. Yes, this is a great closing. As the report came out today from the Department of Justice, and I'm gonna make sure this is tied into us here, as it relates to Uvalde. For those of us who work in the area of dealing with law enforcement and again, this is tied in here. There has been a probing of the Ferguson Police Department. There's been a probing of Baltimore Police Department. There's been a probing of Chicago. There's been a probing of Louisville. And there is currently a probing of Fulton County jail right now. Why am I saying that? Because even though the Fulton County Jail report has not come out, we seem to have a history here in this country with doing very detailed reports that lead to no accountability. So I say that to say this, all of this work that we are doing we know towards the end of the year, we will put it in the form of demands that need to be voted on by the commissioners. But Madam Chair, I just, I hope, and I don't even use that word too often. I just hope all of the work that we are doing here doesn't end up as one of those empty reports without there being some accountability? And with that I yield.

Chair Sims-Alvarado states: I hope that all of us are committed to ensuring that the research that is performed that is this great work will not be in vain. So, I'm gonna pass it on to anyone else want to.

Elon Osby states:

I am in awe of these young people here. I wish I could get my box and my words together to say something intelligent. I'm just in awe of you, and I hope to speak to you all. Maisie, I would love to talk with you. I hope I'm pronouncing your name correctly. I think I have a little bit of understanding of what you may be going through just remembering the descendant of my ancestors slave owners and how he was, you know, just really perplexed about speaking. So I'd like to share with you in a conversation. And always like to thank all of you all for coming. Especially in this cold weather it was a challenge for us. Might not say it, but I know it was a challenge for everybody. Any how, thank you so much for coming and Madam Chair and the other members of this group, I think that we should consider extending the public speaking to 3 minutes. I think it's very hard for somebody to get their thoughts out in 2 minutes. And I think if somebody comes, we're trying to get more people to come, we definitely want people to express their feelings about this and I would be a little bit upset and I would be feeling some kind of way if I'm trying to tell you what I'm thinking and the minutes, the seconds are being counted down. I know you're doing your job, but I think we need to extend that and give people a decent amount of time to express themselves.

- Motion to amend the bylaws to change the 2 minutes to 3 by Elon Osby. Seconded by Marcus Coleman. Motion passes.

Mr. Mike Russell states:

I don't wanna go past our time, cause I know we have to get out of here, but very impressed by what we heard today. On the land thing if you know anything about me you know I, to the chagrin of our city leaders, I equate rental to sharecroppers. And every time I hear the word, affordable housing, I ask and I did again today affordable for who and for how long. And if you're giving government subsidies to somebody who's renting to somebody, they're just becoming more wealthy and the person who's renting at the end of the day has nothing. So when we talk about land, a lot of us are not going to become farmers. But we're all going to need shelter. And so I would encourage people, when your politicians talk to you about affordable housing, my question is, for who and for how long and the question is are you renting to the people or are you allowing them to purchase so that they can have their piece of the American dream, so that they are not the modern day sharecroppers. So at the end of the day, they have nothing to pass on to the next generation. And the person they rent it from has everything to pass on to their heirs. So I agree with you on the land thing, but I think we need to think of a more broader aspect of housing and shelter, which in this city is ridiculously expensive and it seems like the movement is to put everybody in an apartment and fewer people into their own home. Thanks.

Secretary Meng states:

Vice Chair Marcus Coleman encouraged me to kind of speak to why I'm here and I appreciate that. I like most people up here, I'm here because I believe in reparations and that's first and foremost I think the most important thing for me to say and I also appreciate Ms. Thompson giving her voice of support. And this, I appreciate also what Aby said that it's overdue. And this comment from folks that we've lost the chance, the time is up, it was so long ago. That's to me completely irrelevant because there's no timer or expiration on repair for human suffering. The other reason I'm, like folks up here, is that, I believe I have some experience and skill set to offer to carry out the mission of this task force. I'm Research Faculty at Georgia Tech and for the past decade I've been working in civic data and data activism. And working with groups and studying how social movements make use of data, collect new data, to make claims on government and to mobilize resources in their neighborhood. So one example actually, because they've been talking about land and housing, is using county back tax data to acquire parcels on the West Side to deposit into a community land trust, which the first one was in Dougherty County, in the United States. So I think that that work that I've done definitely is obviously very relevant to what we're doing here today. And lastly, unlike other folks up here, I'm here as an ally. I'm here so that other people in Fulton County who are white can see that they have a role, they have an opportunity, to voice their support for reparations. And if anyone, I'm learning my role, I will continue to, and if anyone wants to talk about that with me, I'm here for that. And something that came up this week, if you want to talk about your white fear, express your white fragility. You could come to me for that as well. I don't want to burden anybody else with that. So I'm really honored to be on this task force and to serve as secretary and look forward to continuing the work.

- Motion to amend the agenda and to include our voting on a once a month, in-person meeting on the first Thursday of every month by Marcus Coleman. Donte' Thompson second. Motion passes.

Adjourn

Public Comment

Maisie Thompson: In support of the subject.

My name is Maisie Thompson. I am an Atlanta-based portrait artist and muralist and director of the Aster Project, a multidisciplinary art project where 20 Georgia families who have lost a loved one to police violence are collaborating with creatives in Atlanta to rehumanize their loved ones through art and storytelling. Through this work is how I met Vice Chairman, Mr. Coleman and being familiar with his work on the reparations task force I let him know that recently I was home in Tennessee and was going through an old box of photos and I found an envelope, this was about a month ago, and it said bill of sale for a slave in my family. He said, well if you have some thoughts on it and you feel compelled, we have a meeting on the 18th and there will be a microphone. And I do have thoughts and I feel compelled and I'm pretty nervous and it's super uncomfortable. But I think that acknowledging reality is a really low bar. And acknowledging the reality that repair is owed for centuries of forced and free labor followed by decades of deliberate disenfranchisement all from which I benefit from is a really low bar. My family didn't buy a slave, we enslaved her. The truth hits somewhere different when you name it. Her name was Ceilia and she was 26 years old. I just want to be a clear voice in support of the work you all are doing. Thank you.

Roy Lee: [audio/visual of public comment failed to be recorded]

Gerald Griggs:

Good afternoon to the board, my name is Attorney Gerald Griggs. I am the 13th president of the Georgia state conference of the NAACP. I am also president of the Atlanta NAACP. And I rise today to one, reaffirm the position of the NAACP on reparations. In 1991 we passed our first resolution strongly urging the United States and all of the governmental entities to affirm reparations for African Americans, particularly African Americans that had been enslaved in this country. And so I rise today to reaffirm not only 1991 but 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2016, 2019 and again in 2020. The NAACP, also known as the

Association, reaffirms and continues to stand in favor of financial reparations for African Americans and those of African descendants in the United States who are the descendants of slavery and Jim Crow. So I rise not only as a president but as a native Atlantan, 6th generation Georgian, born out of this red clay, the great great great grandson of a slave, asking and urging you to continue your needed work, urging and continuing to advocate on behalf of my descendant, those who have gone before me, but also for those who will go after me. It's time for this county to make amends for what happened in this county and to send a message to the rest of Georgia that it is time for Georgia to make amends for what happened to my ancestors and all of yours. So I am hopeful that you will move forward, continue that great work, and come up with a great resolution to this issue.