

January 22, 2025

**From: Fulton County Reparations Task Force Executive Committee**  
**Subject: Update Letter from Fulton County Reparations Task Force Executive Committee**

Fulton County Commissioners and Fulton County Residents,

On behalf of the entire task force, the executive committee of the Fulton County Reparations Task Force would like to provide the following update that reviews our practice of public meetings, our research status, and our next steps.

According to the resolution that formed the Fulton County Reparations Task Force, the body is required to hold a minimum of six public meetings annually. We have greatly exceeded this requirement from 2021-2024. Below are the numbers of public meetings:

1. Three public meetings were held in 2021.
2. Sixteen public meetings were held in 2022.
3. Twenty-one public meetings were held in 2023.
4. Eleven public meetings were held in 2024.
5. One district meeting hosted by Commissioner Bridget Thorne in 2024

The agendas and all ratified minutes are available on the Task Force's website. Additionally, we have held two public listening sessions in the county as part of our community engagement efforts.

We have also amended our public comment bylaws to better support public comment by extending the time allotted for each person from 2 to 3 minutes and by moving public comment to after new business in recognition that it is a challenge for folks to arrive by 5:45 PM to sign up for public comments before the start of our 6:00 PM meeting. This is to say, we greatly value public comment and public engagement.

The Task Force held a special meeting on September 21, 2024. During this meeting, by a majority vote of the members, the decision was made to suspend Task Force meetings until the completion of the research study that quantifies and qualifies the harm of slavery and the legacy of slavery during Jim Crow in Fulton County. This study is also known as the "**Harm Report.**"

We have been reporting on the status of this research extensively in past meetings. The thematic areas in the Harm Report include:

1. slavery,

2. convict leasing,
3. chain gangs,
4. the origins of the KKK and other hate groups,
5. racial terror through lynching, racialized practice of eminent domain,
6. tax inequity,
7. property assessment valuations,
8. unequal provision of county resources related to public services, including schools, parks, libraries, health clinics, etc., and
9. voting.

The work of the Harm Report study is mentally, emotionally, and spiritually demanding. Investigating these topics involves digitization and creation of new datasets, creation, and validation of formulas to quantify harm, expert economic and legal analysis, and contextual analysis. The decision to suspend meetings until the completion of the report was made in order to direct full attention to the research and complete it as soon as possible and with the recognition that there are no actions that need to be voted on by the Task Force until the completion of the report.

Currently, there are four researchers, two attorneys, one economist, and one project manager under the direction of the Task Force's Research Subcommittee. In the past, additional research outfits were involved in research and data collection. Additionally, four Task Force members are actively involved in writing the Harm Report. Managing budgets and contracts while conducting research and writing is an all-encompassing effort. The Harm Report is 75 percent complete.

The next steps for the Task Force are as follows:

1. Completion of the remaining 25 percent of the study
2. Copy editing and formatting of the Harm Report for public review
3. Adoption of the Harm Report by the Fulton County Task Force
4. Presentation of the Harm Report to the Board of Commissioners
5. Completion of a feasibility study, also known as the "**Repair Report.**"
6. Two Town Halls will be held to review the Harm Report and the Repair Report
7. Adoption of the Repair Report by the Task Force
8. Presentation of the Repair Report to the Board of Commissioners

To accomplish the two town hall meetings and the feasibility report, we have a remainder of \$40,000 in our budget, which has always been earmarked for these activities— specifically, \$30,000 for the Repair Report and \$10,000 for two town halls.

Of the initial \$210,000 allocated for the Harm Report, \$0.29 was returned to Fulton County Government on December 17, 2024.

We are immensely grateful for the support from Fulton County as we take on this momentous task. We ask for your continued support and solidarity as we complete the work ahead.

With deep desire and great anticipation, we look forward to the day we will resume public meetings to share the Harm Report and Repair Report.

We apologize for the postponement of our standing monthly meetings. We look forward to resuming and sharing the forthcoming report with the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and Fulton County residents.

If you wish to be in communication with the Task Force, we kindly request that you email us at [reparationstaskforce@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:reparationstaskforce@fultoncountyga.gov). Fulton County staff will be monitoring this email address and sharing communications with us.

Sincerely,

The Fulton County Reparations Task Force Executive Committee