



CITY EXPERIENCE  
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

## Beyond Apology Commission

Special Meeting | November 15, 2024 | 1:00 – 3:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: TheRese Anderson Aduni, Phil Armstrong, Jacqueline Evans, Vanessa Hall-Harper, Mattece Mason, Keith Mayes, D'Marria Monday, Tim Newton, Greg Taylor, Kristi Williams, Corinice Wilson, Damali Wilson

Commissioners Absent: none

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Jack Blair, Kyra Carby, Ana Ibarra, Krystal Reyes, James Wagner

- I. **Call to Order**
  - a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the November 8 meeting minutes.
    - i. Commissioner Mason made a motion, Commissioner Damali Wilson seconded.
      1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
      2. Councilor Hall-Harper and Commissioner Newton had not arrived to the meeting yet.
    - ii. Motion carried, meeting minutes approved.
- III. **Election of Commission Vice Chair**
  - a. In the November 1 meeting, Commissioner Mason was nominated. In the November 8 meeting, Commissioner Corinice Wilson was nominated. The commission held a democratic election on paper ballots.
  - b. Commissioner Corinice Wilson was elected Vice Chair.
- IV. **Review of Presentations, Data, and Resources to Date**
  - a. Greg Robinson facilitated an activity via Microsoft Teams enabling commissioners to review the materials provided to the commission thus far. The commission broke into three groups of four for the activity.
  - b. In framing, Greg encouraged commissioners to fully participate and not hold back any ideas or questions. This stage of the process can be messy in order to get everything out that needs to be said.
  - c. After small group conversations, the commission came together to discuss whole group.



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- i. What data or information feels especially important to the work of this commission?
  1. Vice Chair Corinice Wilson: Information on geographic boundaries for the Equality Indicators, home ownership disparity for Race Massacre survivors and descendants. Need to identify a timeframe of harm, similarly to Evanston's program. Information on philanthropic organizations that support this work.
  2. Commissioner Aduni: Data on households with income less than \$30k. Defining descendant.
  3. Commissioner Monday:
- ii. Are there existing programs or initiatives the commission could or should build upon?
  1. Commissioner Aduni: Rehab programs for existing structures. Financial literacy and credit repair programs to help people purchase homes. More down payment assistance. Funds for seniors to maintain their yard and homes to keep property values up and entice developers to build.
  2. Vice Chair Corinice Wilson: Need to coordinate existing first-time homebuyer programs.
- iii. What gaps exist in existing programming, and how can the commission address those gaps?
  1. Commissioner Monday: Programs supporting low-income households and providing upward mobility. Programs that were presented have an income minimum requirement of \$30k. Funds to bring homes up to code. City of Tulsa making donations of land in north Tulsa to a community land trust to build people power. Provide education to those with property with clouded deeds. Address appraisal and assessment process.
  2. Commissioner Aduni: Infrastructure funds to aid developers, with a focus on Black developers. Freezing property tax.
  3. Commissioner Monday: Removing barriers for developers who have a criminal history.
  4. Commissioner Aduni: Creating options for seniors who have lived in their community for a long time and want to stay.
  5. Vice Chair Corinice Wilson: Setting aside funds specifically for Race Massacre descendants. Call on banks that have contributed to harm to provide funding.
  6. Commissioner Armstrong: Keep in mind historic Black-centered organizations that have done this work, need to reinvest in restarting those organizations locally.



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- iv. Are there urgent questions that the commission needs to answer to move forward?
  - 1. Commissioner Monday: City ordinance for abandoned homes. Can some money be allocated from the City's surplus budget? What parameters can be put in place for planned growth and development to protect existing residents from being pushed out?
  - 2. Commissioner Aduni: What does DNA testing for Race Massacre descendants look like?
  - 3. Vice Chair Corinice Wilson: How much money from the \$75M is designated for this initiative? How can we address housing reparations for renters?
  - 4. Commissioner Mason: Is there be an example of this type of commission in other locations that has gotten the money? How does this commission determine and follow a path that will increase chances of success?
- d. Greg provided a previous for tomorrow's design session. The commission will discuss what they want to occur. What is within the scope of the commission, what is important, who has been left out, who is being supported, what did the massacre take away and what will this commission provide, what can be rebuilt. Starting with the questions of what and for who instead of how.

V. **Old Business**

- a. Chairwoman Williams brought up interest and availability for the Reparations Conference in Evanston, Illinois. The City is working to get funding to send commissioners to this conference. She passed around a paper for commissioners to indicate their availability and interest. Opportunity to learn from other cities about best practices and successes on reparations programs.

VI. **New Business – no new business**

VII. **Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Armstrong made a motion, Commissioner Evans seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
    - 2. Commissioner Mayes left the meeting before the motion.
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.