

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Maryland Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity**  
**Inaugural Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**  
Morgan State University Student Center, Room 204  
4307 Hillen Road, Baltimore, MD 21239

**PRESENT:**

Task Force Members Present: Dr. Noel Braithwaite, Dr. Raimee Eck, Dr. John Hudgins, Rev. Florence Ledyard, Rev. Kobi Little, Det. Miguel Rodriguez and Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

MSU Staff and Guests: Dr. Clement Anyadike, Dr. Deborah Bailey, Dr. Jeff Menzise, Dr. Simon Oladele, Mr. Glenn Robinson, Dr. Tracy R. Rone, Ms. Gillian Silver and Dr. Raymond Winbush

**ABSENT:**

Task Force Members Absent: Imam Earl Al-Amin, Ms. Adar Ayira, Dr. Jane Lincove, Ms. Annette March-Grier, Ms. Joanne Martin, Delegate Edith J. Patterson and Dr. Brian Smedley

**1. ALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS**

The inaugural meeting of the Maryland State Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity was convened at 6:30 p.m. by Dr. Ray Winbush, Director of the Institute of Urban Research.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Task Force members and staff of the Institute for Urban Research, Morgan State University engaged in introductions.

**3. OVERVIEW**

Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam began the meeting by providing an overview of the 10 year history leading up to the passage of SB 350, the legislation creating the Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity and outlining the responsibilities of the body.

- Senator Nathan-Pulliam discussed the responsibilities of the Task Force and the group's two deliverables, a preliminary report to be issued by the Institute for Urban Research on behalf of the Task Force due no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 and a final report complete with findings and recommendations due no later than

January 2020. Both reports will be submitted to the Governor of Maryland and leaders of the Maryland State Senate and House of Delegates.

#### **4. DISCUSSION—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

- Senator Nathan-Pulliam discussed the Task Force’s responsibility to host hearings across the state of Maryland. A discussion followed regarding whether hearings would be conducted in regions or each jurisdiction. There was a unanimous vote, which determined that hearings would be held in each jurisdiction.
- Dr. Raymond Winbush reviewed the role of the Institute for Urban Research via the Task Force and mentioned that a chair of the Task Force needed to be selected. There was extensive discussion about who might serve as chair. Dr. Jeff Menzise nominated Rev. Kobi Little. Senator Nathan-Pulliam and Dr. Ray Winbush indicated a need to table any decisions about leadership because a number of Task Force members were absent from the meeting.
- Task Force members engaged in a discussion about several items connected to its charge in SB 350 including:
  - The nature of racism and discrimination in the State of Maryland
  - How the Task Force might approach its work and responsibility to host hearings/focus groups across the state
  - The composition of the Task Force
  - The efficacy of holding a retreat for Task Force members to reach consensus regarding the meaning of concepts, language and definitions related to Diversity and Inclusion.
  - Whether or not the Task Force would emphasize the condition of diversity and inclusion in selected counties or seek to cover all 24 Maryland jurisdictions--23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. The majority of Task Force members present expressed a preference for convening focus groups in all jurisdictions (including in clusters of jurisdictions in Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore) in order to adequately gain insight from across the state.
- Several Task Force members indicated the need for a follow-up meeting ASAP to select Task Force leadership and to begin how to structure the work of the Task Force.
- Dr. Winbush indicated he would issue follow-up correspondence outlining next steps.

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Nathan-Pulliam announced the Legislative Black Caucus would be held in Annapolis, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Dr. Noel Braithwaite announced the 2018 MdPHA Annual Conference, Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Ray Winbush adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.