

MEETING MINUTES
Maryland Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity
Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Morgan State University
Earl Graves School of Business, Room 412
4100 Hillen Road, Baltimore, MD 21218

PRESENT:

Task Force Members: Ms. A. Adar Ayira, Dr. Noel Braithwaite, Dr. John Hudgins, Rev. Florence Ledyard, Dr. Jane Lincove, Rev. Kobi Little, Ms. Annette March-Grier, Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

Subcommittee Members: Imam Derrick Amin (for Imam Earl Al-Amin), Rabbi Ariana Katz, Mr. Dayvon Love, Dr. Rod Taylor and Dr. Kellee White

Called into meeting: Det. Miguel Rodriguez, Rabbi Daniel Burg

IUR Staff: Dr. Ashraf Ahmed, Dr. Clement Anyadike, Dr. Jeff Menzise, Dr. Simon Odalele, Mr. Glenn Robinson, Dr. Tracy R. Rone, Dr. Raymond Winbush

ABSENT:

Dr. Brian Smedley, Imam Earl Al-Amin, Delegate Edith Patterson, Dr. Joanne Martin and Dr. Raimée Eck

1. CALL TO ORDER

The second meeting of the Maryland State Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity was convened at 6:15 p.m. by Dr. Ray Winbush, Director of the Institute of Urban Research.

2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Senator Nathan-Pulliam reviewed the history leading up to the legislation and the composition of the Task Force as stated in the language of SB350.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CO-CHAIRS

Dr. Winbush referred to the bill and the appointment of a Chair by Morgan State University's Institute of Urban Research (IUR) and introduced Ms. A. Adar Ayira and Rev. Kobi Little as the Task Force Co-Chairs. Referring to the discussion from the previous meeting, Dr. Hudgins raised the question, "Why not vote for Co-Chairs?" Dr. Winbush referred Task Force members to the language of the bill, Page 3, Line 17-18, which indicates "The Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University shall: (i) select a chair from among the members of the task force."

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Task Force members and guests introduced themselves.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Senator Nathan-Pulliam circulated copies of the bill for those who did not have copies and invited Task Force members to present the names of people invited to serve on Task Force Subcommittees.
- Dr. Braithwaite invited Dr. Kellee White to serve on the Public Health Subcommittee. The public safety and interfaith Task Force members indicated a need for additional time.
- Senator Nathan-Pulliam described the recent violence spike in Baltimore City and addressed the need for the subcommittees to address these issues.
- Ms. Annette March-Grier indicated she would bring other business leaders.
- Dr. Rod Taylor will also serve on the public health subcommittee.

6. DISCUSSION OF PERSONAL VIEWS ON RACE, RACISM, AND RECONCILIATION

- Dr. Winbush opened a discussion about ideas of race.
- Co-Chair Ayira raised the issue of a need to have a shared understanding and raised the questions, "What is racism? What might you want your sub-committee to focus on? What policies? Disparities? There was a lengthy, discussion with briefly timed comments (2 minutes per person) which included race, racism, reconciliation, white supremacy, equity, social stratification, the structure of society, and intersectionality. Some contributions were conceptual and grounded in specific approaches. Others referred more to cultural aspects such as country of birth, including the ideological and cultural stance of that country, or speaking with or without an accent. And, others illustrated their thoughts about racism and inequity through anecdotal accounts.
- Dr. Hudgins expressed concern about the short time limits placed on speakers to discuss personal visits on race, racism and reconciliation. Rev. Little also expressed concern that the Task Force itself should function in more conciliatory and collegial ways, so that there could be agreement about discussion and so there would be no subjugating of some voices and streams of thought. Senator Nathan-Pulliam raised the issue of the need for more Asian representation on the Task Force.

- Task Force members expressed concern about the short amount of time to discuss ideas about race and racism and inquired about a retreat mentioned during the first meeting.
- Senator Nathan-Pulliam referred back to decision made during the September 2018 decision to conduct focus groups for the Task Force in all jurisdictions.

6. ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING REMARKS

- Senator Nathan-Pulliam announced the Legislative Black Caucus Weekend, November 9-10, 2018, where issues of race, health, education, and economics serve as the focus of presentations and conversation.
- Dr. Winbush briefly reviewed the IUR's role of staffing hearings, focus groups, and information gathering sessions where needed.
- Dr. Ray Winbush adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.