



## **Beyond Apology Commission**

Regular Meeting | January 16, 2026 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: TheRese Anderson Aduni, Jacqueline Evans, Vanessa Hall-Harper, Keith Mayes, D'Marria Monday, Taylor West, Kristi Williams, Corinice Wilson

Commissioners Present Virtually: Mattece Mason, Greg Taylor, Damali Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Phil Armstrong, Krystal Reyes

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Kyra Carby, Dion'trae Hayes, Brentom Todd

- I. Call to Order**
  - a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.
- II. Ancestral Acknowledgement**
  - a. Commissioner Aduni led the Ancestral Acknowledgement.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the November meeting minutes.
    - i. Councilor Hall-Harper made a motion, Vice Chair Corinice Wilson seconded.
      1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
    - ii. Motion carried, November meeting minutes approved.
- IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report**
  - a. Chairwoman Williams acknowledged guests at the meeting.
  - b. In 2025, BAC laid critical groundwork for the work ahead. BAC isn't intended to be an honorary body, meant to move from acknowledgement to action. Will focus on sustainability and long-term strategy in 2026. Not all progress is immediately public facing, but the community is always prioritized.
  - c. Chairwoman Williams hopes everyone read the end of year report.
  - d. Chairwoman will be meeting with BAC committees to ensure alignment, role clarity, and intentional progress. Scheduling in the next week.
  - e. Planning a day at City Hall to discuss how BAC's work intersects with city staff and officials.
- V. Nominating Committee Presents 2026 Officer Slate**
  - a. Commissioner West presented the Nominating Committee report.
  - b. 2026 Officer Slate
    - i. Chair: Kristi Williams
    - ii. Vice Chair: Mattece Mason



**VI. Action: Elect 2026 Officers**

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the 2026 officer slate.
  - i. Councilor Hall-Harper made a motion, Commissioner Aduni seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
      - a. Commissioner Mason was not present for the motion.
  - ii. Motion carried, 2026 officer slate approved.

**VII. Debrief of National Symposium for State and Local Reparations**

- a. Chairwoman Williams reflected that those who attended the conference had a great time in Evanston. There was lots of information and connecting with partners. Tulsa has a lot of national support.
- b. Vice Chair Wilson shared she appreciated amazing opportunities to connect with individuals evaluating initiatives across the country. Learned more about determining measurements of success and would like to bring this practice to Tulsa to measure how we're progressing in reparative work. The Evanston tour sparked individual reflection of what's next to advance north Tulsa, took a tour of north Tulsa and considered this.
- c. Commissioner West talked about the youth and student spaces he attended, in which they discussed what reparations look like for young people. Suggested starting with the reparations owed to HBCU towns.
- d. Commissioner Mayes joined the faith leaders' session. It's important to rise above denominational differences to impact the greater good. Something that's missing from the reparations conversation is that repair positively impacts the city as a whole.
- e. Commissioner Evans: Need to unite Tulsa and our community better. Seeing other cities are closer knit.
- f. Chairwoman Williams: One session was for city staff led by Evanston city staff to share about the behind the scenes of their work. Sometimes commissions underutilize city staff.
- g. One of Lexi's biggest takeaways was the human rights case for reparations.
- h. Commissioner Mayes acknowledged Chairwoman Williams for receiving an award at the conference.
- i. Tulsa has a permanent poster featured at the National Reparations Resource Center in Evanston.
- j. Councilor Hall-Harper: First Repair is always working to bring information and resources to local organizations. They are building a resource bank for the legal case for repair to help face legal challenges.

**VIII. Update on 1921 Graves Investigation from Brentom Todd, Deputy Chief of Staff at City of Tulsa**

- a. Brentom expressed gratitude to the commission and excitement for what's to come for BAC in 2026.
- b. The 2024 Field Season Report is now publicly available online on the 1921 Graves Investigation webpage.



- c. This fall was another successful field season. Exhumed nine remains and two gunshot wound remains were found. Haven't received full executive report back from the team, but should receive that late in the first quarter of this year to inform the work for the upcoming year.
- d. Approximately 75 new graves found that were not previously known to the City.
- e. This process is working. Brentom thanked those who volunteered at the cemetery.
- f. Commission Discussion
  - i. Commissioner Evans: Can you tell how many were children? Brentom didn't know off the top of his head, but the executive report will include this information.
  - ii. Councilor Hall-Harper asked how the Mayor's Office will move forward with re-engaging the community and providing oversight. Brentom shared he will provide more frequent check-ins and conversation with BAC, which will be a great way to bring the information to the community. Community engagement is vital as the work moves forward.

**IX. Committee Reports**

- a. Education
  - i. Commissioner Aduni shared the committee met on Wednesday with nine people present. Discussed issues that need to be addressed, committee members' areas of expertise, and working towards clear next steps.
  - ii. Vice Chair Wilson: Everyone was engaged in conversation on how to improve education outcomes for Race Massacre descendants and north Tulsa residents. Clarified that the committees provide recommendations to BAC for consideration.
  - iii. A committee member provided research on Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) from 1968 to 2023.
  - iv. Next meeting: February 11
- b. Community, Economic, and Land Development – no report
- c. Housing
  - i. Commissioner Monday: Commissioner Taylor is scheduling a meeting with Ashley Grant and Chief Hoskin with Cherokee Nation.
- d. Health and Wellness – no report
- e. Systems Change and Financial Compensation
  - i. Chairwoman Williams reported the committee met and discussed policy opportunities.
- f. Cultural Identity – no report

**X. Old Business** – no old business

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

**XII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Equity Dialogues for Nonprofit Leaders on Tuesday, January 20 organized by the Department of Resilience and Equity
- b. Tulsa Asia Fest on Saturday, January 31 hosted by the Asian Affairs Commission



- c. Human Trafficking Awareness Summit on January 30
- d. Black History Saturday Kickoff: February 21 at 9am at Langston University-Tulsa.
- e. Next TPS school board meeting is on February 2 at 5:30 at the Education Service Center or online.
- f. Afro Fest: February 28 at Big 10 Ballroom
- g. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr holiday weekend features many events and community opportunities.

**XIII. Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn.
  - i. Commissioner Monday made a motion, Vice Chair Wilson seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 11
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:51 pm.