



## **Beyond Apology Commission**

Regular Meeting | May 15, 2026 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: TheRese Anderson Aduni, Phil Armstrong, Jacqueline Evans, Vanessa Hall-Harper, Taylor West, Kristi Williams, Corinice Wilson

Commissioners Present Virtually: D'Marria Monday

Commissioners Absent: Mattece Mason, Keith Mayes, Krystal Reyes, Greg Taylor, Damali Wilson

City of Tulsa Staff Present: Lexi Bollis, Kyra Carby, Brentom Todd

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. A quorum was not yet present.

#### **II. Ancestral Acknowledgement**

- a. Commissioner Aduni led the Ancestral Acknowledgement.
- b. Commissioner Evans arrived at 1:08. A quorum was now present.

#### **III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the March meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner West made a motion, Commissioner Corinice Wilson seconded.
    1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0
      - a. Councilor Hall-Harper was not yet present in the meeting.
  - ii. Motion carried, March meeting minutes approved.
- b. Chairwoman Williams entertained a motion to approve the April 24 and 25 meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Aduni made a motion, Commissioner Wilson seconded.
    1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0
      - a. Councilor Hall-Harper was not yet present in the meeting.
  - ii. Motion carried, April 24 and 25 meeting minutes approved.

#### **IV. Guest Speaker: aurelius franciso, Executive Director of Foundation for Liberating Minds**

- a. Aurelius introduced himself and shared his background as an activist.
- b. Foundation for Liberating Minds (FLM) was created in 2017 rooted in dreaming radically, what a liberated future looks like, and letting those dreams drive the future.



- c. FLM focuses on education justice, interrupting the school to prison pipeline (especially for Black and impoverished communities) and community organizing around policing and the prison system. A goal is to establish a school in east Oklahoma City.
- d. Three Pillars: education, community organizing, and programming
  - i. Education is the foundation for a liberated society.
  - ii. Community organizing focuses on state-wide campaigns about the carceral system, narrative organizing project sharing stories of seven formerly incarcerated Oklahomans to re-humanize their stories and convey the harm and violence embedded in prison system, shifting from carceral stories to liberatory narratives focused on accountability, repair, and transformation
  - iii. Programming includes Safe Commune (transformative justice program, launching 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort soon), reparations and transformation, and Community Circles (unique opportunity to hold complex historical realities and harm centering equity of voice and survivors of that harm).
    - 1. Also offer trainings on Oklahoma history and social justice.
- e. Commission Discussion
  - i. Chairwoman Williams reflected that there are many ways that BAC can collaborate with FLM. Commissioner Monday echoed this and said she'd be excited to participate in a healing circle.
  - ii. Aurelius shared about FLM's affinity spaces – Beyond Whiteness, Embodying Solidarity, and Building Authentic Masculinity.
  - iii. Commissioner Aduni asked if FLM participates in legislative advocacy. Aurelius shared they are working with the Julius Jones Institute to improve conditions in the dept of corrections. Also working on a moratorium on the death penalty, survivor justice, and more.

**V. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Chairwoman Williams recognized leaders who have recently passed, Don Ross, Bobby Eason, and Ruby Hall. She read a quote from Don Ross that was included in the Beyond Apology Report.
- b. Councilor Hall-Harper arrived at 1:31 pm.
- c. Chairwoman Williams recognized Dr. Moore in attendance for the work she did to contribute to the creation of the Beyond Apology Report.
- d. Recap of Tulsa Reparations Summit
  - i. Chairwoman Williams thanked everyone involved in the inaugural Tulsa Reparations Summit. The weekend included people of many different backgrounds from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and across the country. Participant feedback demonstrates the powerful impact of the Summit and that those in attendance believe Tulsa should move forward with reparation efforts.
  - ii. Chairwoman Williams will share the full report from the Summit's feedback form.
  - iii. The Summit demonstrated that Tulsa is ready for deeper conversation, moving beyond symbolic acknowledgement to more tangible action.
  - iv. The Summit will be an annual gathering.
- e. Commissioner Wilson exited the meeting at 1:45 pm.



- f. Commissioners discussed opportunities for the Reparations Summit next year, such as holding it at the newly renovated Greenwood Cultural Center, managing timing of sessions differently, and centering more storytelling.
  - g. There will be opportunities for BAC to engage with the Vernon Witness exhibit.
  - h. Chairwoman Williams and Councilor Hall-Harper met with a state representative to discuss the opportunity to initiate a bill like Illinois passed for all Black residents to have an African Ancestry kit for free.
  - i. Commissioner West exited the meeting at 1:58 pm. The meeting was no longer at quorum.
- VI. **Committee Reports**
- a. Land Committee
    - i. Commissioner Monday reported the committee has expanded to eight members and selected officers. She was selected as Chair, Commissioner Taylor Secretary, Co-Chair is Deuce Tisdale. Will meet in person soon.
  - b. Health & Wellness Committee
    - i. Commissioner Monday: Growing committee, inviting more people.
- VII. **Old Business** – no old business
- VIII. **New Business** – no new business
- IX. **Announcements / Public Comments**
- a. Genealogy Workshop June 18 – 20 at Gradient
  - b. Greenwood Entrepreneurship at Moton (GEM) is open
- X. **Adjournment**
- a. Chairwoman Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:09 pm.