



## **Advisory Council on Reparations**

Friday, May 17, 2024

2 PM – 4 PM

Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264

Passcode: 120589

### **COUNCIL APPROVED MAY MINUTES**

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - a. April 19, 2024
  - b. Amendment: Daniel Fryer - corrected
  - c. Approved by Consensus
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
  - a. No public Comment
5. Council Response to Public Participation
6. Reparations Definitions Discussion
  - a. HCR: Are we only talking about black people or are we also discussing brown Americans?
  - b. ATM: Believes that we should keep it only black people at this point because it aligns with the language from the board.
  - c. LONG DISCUSSION OF DEFINITION SPECIFICS
  - d. DF: Are we looking to publicize this definition or is it internal? Recommendation would be that it remains internal.
  - e. JS: Agree that we should focus on this being an internal definition.
  - f. DK: Believes that the definition should be crisp, punchy, focused. Believes that this work is valuable, but it depends on what the definition is for. It loses its flexibility if we continue to expand the definition.
  - g. ATM: Thinks that the council should lose flexibility.
  - h. HCR: Is in favor of whatever wouldn't affect us legally.

- i. AW: As an internal framework, this is healthy. The origin of the exercise was to create a consistent approach to reparations.
- j. Virginie Ladisch: ICTJ does not believe that a definition is necessary to do this work, but Alize strongly suggested that the council have one. It is helpful to have a guiding document for your work, but it does not need to be a very public document.
- k. JH: Hasn't given much a report during board meetings, but he would like to start talking about the work of the reparations council.
- l. CS: Believes that the framework for ACR should be public. Thinks ACR should do the work and tailor it strongly.
- m. ATM: DF are you still concerned?
- n. DF: My inclination is to operate with the language of the resolution. What does a definition give us that the resolution doesn't? Perhaps this time would be better spent on the community engagement discussion?
- o. ATM: Would love to be spending this time on community engagement but has received pushback on that. But doesn't
- p. Virginie Ladisch: What forms of reparations might you consider as tools in your tool box? Believes that it is important to include a variety of different measures instead of just monetary.
- q. ATM: Doesn't want to give up on this work.
- r. HCR: Concerned about legal entanglements
- s. AW: Believes that we can move forward with the definition reparations provided in the resolution and move forward.
- t. ATM: Table the discussion and move into Community engagement
- u. CS: Can you live with this as a statement? What is our groups framework for this discussion and what reparations is? Qualify your support as well.
  - i. DK: The county gives us what we really need as a purpose. That was not a definition.
  - ii. DF: Okay with this as a working STATEMENT
  - iii. consensus is reached
- v. AJ: As we do the work we will come up with a definition. We can keep it internal but should move forward.
- w. CS: Perhaps this could be considered a working definition?
- x. Working Guidelines:

Reparations is a process intending to promote justice by healing people injured, oppressed, or exploited because of their group identity. A person heals by way of acknowledgment, apology, and redress.

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners created the Advisory Council on Reparations to advise the Board of Commissioners and the public on the development of a Washtenaw Reparations Plan. The plan will highlight ways that County policies have harmed Black lives and include specific actions to address redress in the sectors of homeownership and access to other quality affordable housing, increasing business ownership and career opportunities, strategies to grow financial equity and generational wealth, closing the gaps in health care, education, employment and pay, neighborhood safety and fairness within criminal justice.

Recommendations we make will be directly related to harm perpetuated by Washtenaw County government or Washtenaw County government's complicity in harms caused by other governmental bodies.

7. Community Engagement Discussion

- a. CS: Facilitating community conversations via third parties, like a church or neighborhood group. We provide a structure and background materials and a means by which the conversations are captured and delivered back to the body. There are also places where we should be talking government to government.
- b. HCR: Would like to be involved with this work.
- c. ATM: Wants to hear stories from folks who feel comfortable sharing them, wants folks to share their experiences. She doesn't care about people who think we shouldn't be doing this work. Should there be separate listening sessions for detractors? Wants to hear stories that will impact the plan we make.
- d. HCR: Neighborhood church
- e. DK: Would like to hear ideas but also present information. We have done some initial work, we would like to hear if what we are finding is resonating with your experience.
- f. JS: thinks that this sounds respectful. Likes the idea of giving the community something to react to. If we just go and say we are going to listen to you, it leaves a space where we should come back and tell you what we are doing with what you told us.
- g. AW: we have credibility with our communities already, I think it makes sense to do early community engagement instead.
- h. HCR: Believes that we should be talking to black people.
- i. ATM: Believes that we should have a strategic framework for the work and focus on this in the next meeting. Review what we looked at, review the resolution, see the areas where we have expertise in and name what we are already thinking about.

8. Retreat Discussion

- a. ATM: We make no progress via email. Believes that the council should do happy hour times for relationship/fellowship.
  - i. Standing happy hour, the first Thursday of the month so that there are touchpoints of conversations outside of the meetings.
- b. CS: Social Hour/Happy hour – Thursdays
- c. ATM: First Thursday in June, June 6
  - i. 4 – 6 PM

9. Adjourn