



Advisory Council on Reparations

Friday, August 16, 2024
2 PM – 4 PM
Meeting in person and via Zoom

[Join by Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 861 3247 5264
Passcode: 120589

AUGUST MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. July 19, 2024
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
5. Council Response to Public Participation
6. Chair Election
7. Strategic Framework and Timeline
 - a. New Meeting Time Options
 - b. Report out on assigned engagement from last meeting
 - i. Housing
 1. Bri Carpenter – HAWC, SAWC, OCED
 - ii. Education – Naomi Norman
 1. Debi & Justin
 - iii. Criminal Safety & Justice System (Eli, Sheriff Clayton)
 1. Mike Steinberg, Daniel Fryer
 - iv. Food Systems
 1. Anna - Health Department and Food Gatherers
 - v. Health
 1. Hazelette – Charles Wilson

- vi. County Planning
 - 1. Conan

- c. Community Engagement Discussion

- i. Details for events

- 1. What do we bring with us?
 - 2. What do we do after the event?
 - 3. Location, days, times, and promotional materials

- d. Reparations Council Budget

- i. Review draft budget Conan created

- 8. Movie Reminders



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JULY DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - a. 2:07 PM
2. Attendance
 - a. Present: Bri Carpenter, Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, Justin Hodge, Michael Steinberg, Julie Steiner, Anna Taylor-McCants, Debi Khasnabis, Asha Jordan, Daniel Fryer, Leo Pittman, Conan Smith
 - b. Absent: Brandon Tucker, Andre Watson, Ebbin Dotson
3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. June 21, 2024
 - b. Approved by Consensus
4. Public Participation (up to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Emma Merritt-Cuneo, ICTJ, New York City
 - i. International nonprofit providing technical support to reparations around the county
5. Council Response to Public Participation
6. Council Leadership Update
 - a. JH: Andre Watson is stepping down as the Chair and resigning from the Advisory Council on Reparations. We will need to elect a new chair there are three options:
 - i. Commissioner Hodge can be Chair and remain a non-voting member

- ii. A member of the Council can
- b. AJ: Would like for Commissioner Hodge to be Chair
- c. ATM: Believes that people would be less likely to accept this recommendation if JH is chair.
- d. MS: Doesn't understand why Justin being Chair would make an impact.
- e. JS: Agrees with ATM, believes it should be community driven, rather than elected official driven.
- f. JH: We should aim to elect a new Chair at the next meeting.
- g. DF: Does JH chair and other commissions/councils?
 - i. JH: Chaired board of health while a Commissioner, also chairs Urban County Board and remaining a non-voting committee member.
 - ii. DF: Has the same inclination as MS, does not see why a Commissioner chairing this board would make a difference in the final product.
- h. DF: Has anyone else resigned other than Andre?
- i. MS: When we come up with a plan, will Justin present it because he is the commission liaison?
 - i. JH: No, that would be members of the Council.
- j. AJ: Are we expecting anyone else to be appointed?
 - i. JH: We will need to fill all of the appointed slots before we can add any at-large members.

7. Strategic Framework and Timeline

- a. Monthly Meeting Topics – Housing, Economic, Health, Safety & Criminal Legal System
 - i. Which month?
 - ii. What speakers?
 - iii. Create standardized questions for Council to ask speakers
 - 1. MS: What do you know about the history of discrimination within their department? - How did what your department did intentionally/unintentionally hurt black people? Or by the County before the department existed.
 - a. Historical, before the time of their position
 - 2. MS: What would you like to see happen to address the disparities within their department? What can we recommend that would help address the disparities?
 - 3. ATM: These seem simple but also hard to answer- are we missing anything.
 - 4. DK: What are some of the racial tensions that have existed in your department current/historically? Ask it more broadly and then focus in on MS questions.

5. JS: Describe the purview/scope of their department as a starting point.
6. MS: Disparities within the county in the work each department does, the vast majority of folks in the jail. Is there a difference in treatment for the populations in prison?
7. JS: I don't want a report on food deserts, I want a report on what the department did to make a food desert happen.
8. JH: We should finalize these questions before I reach out to a department head because I want to give them something to respond to.
9. DF: Would like to take a step back and talk about strategic framework questions, and then create specific questions for each department.
10. ATM: Some folks might not be able to see the whole picture, part of our work may be to detangle the web.
11. DF: What are we trying to accomplish by having them speak to us?
12. HCR: Where are we getting these questions from? Are we using something like the study that was done by the County about the disparities on the eastern side of the County?
13. ATM: We are coming up with them now, and are basing them on what we believe we need to know.
14. HCR: This is frustrating for me because I don't see that happening, and I don't see us talking to any black people. Are we just going to be a bunch of administrators talking to people who aren't black?
15. ATM: Appreciate that feedback- this is the first step in the process of hearing what the County can do and respond while we formulate responses to community.
16. DF: Believes this shouldn't be an isolated process- they have to happen concurrently. We may want to circulate some sort of readings to have a common discussion where we are all on the same page. If a member of the health department is coming to the next meeting, we could research questions we can specifically pose to that department head so we can all be on the same page.
17. JH: I am not committing to Jimena or a specific department head coming in August because I don't know her schedule, but we are working on scheduling this.
18. ATM: We also mentioned that if each month were focusing on a topic, we could also frame the community engagement discussions around that topic. We also need to frame what we should be listening for/questions we should ask at those.

19. HCR: Would like to advocate for changing the meeting times so that she can attend them and be more present. Also would be better for community members to attend.
20. DK: Wrestling with the education questions, what is the line of this is a county issue vs. this isn't a county issue?
21. CS: County Government, until the 50-60's, was a conglomerate of Township Supervisors.
22. JS: Should we invite Larry Kestenbaum for a history lesson on this topic?
23. DK: A lot of the inequalities are perpetuated by school districts competing for students?
24. CS: Sussing out the extent and role of the County is going to have in terms of education is going to be difficult.
25. JH: Some interaction with WISD is going to be important for these questions.
26. JS: We need to understand how these townships and counties interact together.
27. JH: We need to figure out how to engage around the education piece, but WISD has been great to engage on a number of projects, so perhaps they would be good to engage on this. There are going to be a lot of things that you all are going to want to make recommendations on, that the BOC doesn't have purview on. Perhaps we could include recommendations for other bodies to act on.
28. DK: Since we all have different areas of expertise, if we reach out to WISD, that each sector representative would meet with someone from that area first to warm them up and do some of our own assessment, and then bring them to the ACR.
29. CS: Believes that it is important we meet with these groups that we may not think have a big role in this, but they could "point the finger" at the county.
30. ATM: Can we divide ourselves right now based on what we should do?
 - a. Housing
 - i. Bri Carpenter – HAWC, SAWC, OCED
 - b. Education – Naomi Norman
 - i. Debi & Justin
 - c. Criminal Safety & Justice System (Eli, Sheriff Clayton)
 - i. Mike Steinberg, Daniel Fryer
 - d. Food Systems
 - i. Anna - Health Department and Food Gatherers
 - e. Health

- i. Hazelette – Charles Wilson
 - f. Conan
 - i. Talk to old planners

b. Community Engagement Discussion

- i. Details for events
 1. What do we bring with us?
 2. What do we do after the event?
 3. Location, days, times, and promotional materials

8. Center for Social Solutions at University of Michigan

- a. JH: Potentially interested in helping, but the barrier is academic schedules. They gave us other options-
 - i. Brief conversation about getting 1-2 PhD students to commit time to this work, they are open to this work. We would need to come up with a project description/job description. We could potentially be able to get someone for the fall semester, but we can definitely get someone by January who could commit.
- b. MS: This is very disappointing news. I feel like a broken record asking what kind of historical research has been done and Alize said it has been done....but apparently nothing has been done?
- c. JH: Correct- this hasn't been done yet.
- d. MS: Doesn't think two PhD students without supervision is going to be enough to do what we have to do with all the areas of work we have to do. We need somebody full time who is not just a PhD student, but somebody with a PhD. Knows of somebody who might be available to do the work, PhD in history who is moving back to Ann Arbor.
- e. JS: Also very disappointed in this discussion, believes that Council was lied to for many months and she finds it outrageous.
- f. ATM: What is the ballpark idea of salary for this person? \$100K?
- g. JH: At this moment I can't say more than Alize is on leave and I won't be able to share more than that. Unfortunately, I learned that the historical work has not been done to this point despite us being told to.
- h. DF: Is it appropriate to hear from ICTJ on how did this work happen in the past? Were there multiple researchers that worked full time on this? Is this normal?
- i. EMC: How has the research been done in other cases? Is it normal to be hiring people?
 - i. Usually these reparations taskforces will come out of a truth and reconciliation commission. They have robust staff who work full time with research teams.

- ii. California examples are held up as the model for this work. They have significant backstopping from DOJ, State Bodies, and fairly full-time robust teams.
 - j. DF: Believes that this information confirms what MS has been saying about needing a full-time person. There is a smaller scale here, so it is possible that one person could do this work.
 - k. ATM: Believes that the council needs to revisit the budget and make an ask to the BOC for a larger budget.
 - l. MS: Believes there likely aren't people as uniquely qualified for this position as the person that I know.
9. Date and time of meeting
- a. Ashley will send out a poll for the evenings
10. Movie Discussion
- a. Screening will happen on September 12, 2024 at Westgate Library in Ann Arbor.
 - b. Link to register here: <https://kinema.com/events/the-cost-of-inheritance-12labu>
11. Adjourn- 4:04 PM

Reparations Council Budget

		Base	Unit	Rate	Amount
Administration					
	Council Meeting Refreshments	36	Meetings	\$25.00	\$900
	Councillor Per Diems and Mileage	36	Meetings	\$393.60	\$14,170
	Biannual Council Retreats	6	Retreats	\$900.00	\$5,400
<i>Subtotal Administration</i>					\$20,470
Contracts					
	External Consultant Support [1]	36	Months	\$5,000.00	\$180,000
	Graduate / Legal Interns	1,440	Hours	\$20.00	\$28,800
					\$0
<i>Subtotal Contracts</i>					\$208,800
Community Engagement					
	Community Meetings	48	Meetings	700	\$33,600
	Facilitator Stipends	48	Meetings	300	\$14,400
					\$0
<i>Subtotal Communications</i>					\$48,000
Communications					
	Graphic Design	60	Hours	\$165.00	\$9,900
	Printing and Postage	160,000	Units	\$0.32	\$51,200
	Digital Media Marketing	1	Contract	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
	Public Relations Marketing	1	Contract	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
<i>Subtotal Community Engagement</i>					\$71,100
TOTAL COSTS					\$348,370

[1] ICTJ's day rate is \$750, which is currently covered by a grant that expires in June.

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
Recommendation to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

RE: Allocation of Unspent Funds for the Resilience Office

June 4, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Washtenaw County Environmental Council (WCEC), and as the Council's Chair, I am writing to convey the WCEC's recommendation regarding a one-time opportunity to ensure minimal but crucial funding for the new, currently unfunded County Resiliency Office and for the County Environmental Council over the remaining nearly four years of the 2024-2027 Quadrennial Budget.

The BOC approved funds, in the Quadrennial Budget, for the hiring of two positions in the new Resiliency Office. The WCEC applauds the approval of those funds but is deeply concerned that the Resiliency Office, as well as the outreach and educational activities of the WCEC - which are absolutely necessary to support the Resiliency Office given its very small staff - are completely unfunded.

Without action by the BOC, the funds allocated for the Resiliency Office positions but that are unspent for 2024 will return to the General Fund. The BOC has the opportunity to instead redirect the funds to give both the Resiliency Office and the WCEC funding over the remaining years of the four-year budget.

The WCEC unanimously agreed and authorized the WCEC Chair to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the BOC allocate the unused 2024 funding for Resiliency Office hires to instead provide both the Resiliency Office and the WCEC with budget funding. This budget funding should be structured to ensure funding in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Introduction & Background:

The Board of Commissioners authorized funding for two Resiliency Office positions (a Resilience Officer and a Resiliency Program Manager) in the [2024-2027 Quadrennial Budget](#). The funding authorization was for all four years of the Budget. Both of those positions are unfilled, and while the hiring for one position is in process, hiring for the other position has not yet begun.

- While those two positions were budgeted for all of 2024, as of May 15, 2024, no hires had yet been made, leaving substantial unspent Resilience Office funds. Well over \$120,000 of the allocated funds will remain unspent in this fiscal year. (5/12 of the year has passed. 5/12 of the budget allocation for the two Resiliency Officer positions is \$118,000 - and the hiring process has not yet begun for one of the two positions).
- The Resiliency Office currently has no budget allocation beyond that allocated for the compensation of two Resiliency Officers. The Council recognizes that this Office needs funds for reference materials, consultations, conferences, and more.

- The Washtenaw County Environmental Council has no current budget, although when first established it had a small budget as is evidenced by the Bylaws, which authorize limited expenditures approved by the Chair.
 - Council Members engage in outreach activities to promote and support the goals of the County's Climate Action Plan, Resilient Washtenaw. This requires materials, flyers, banners and visibility materials, which Council Members are currently funding from their personal funds.
 - Given the minimal staffing of the Resiliency Office, the County Environmental Council will have a major role to play in support of those staff - a role that it is tasked with in its Bylaws - regarding outreach, communication and education of community stakeholders, local governments, and more.

Recommendations

The Washtenaw County Environmental Council made the following unanimous recommendations to the Board of Commissioners in its May 28th meeting:

- The unused funds for the two Resiliency Officers should be reallocated to fund the Resiliency Office and the Washtenaw County Environmental Council.
- The majority of the unspent funds to date should be allocated to the Resiliency Office.
- To raise the visibility and to promote Resilient Washtenaw and to be more informed in their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, the Council should have funds of \$5,000 in 2024 as well as similar funding in 2025, 2026, 2027 and beyond.
- Per the Council's BOC-approved Bylaws, Council expenditures should be subject to approval by the Council's Chair up to \$100. Larger expenditures should be subject to approval by both the Chair and a vote of the Council, or the Chair and the Resiliency Officer.

After revisiting the Budget following the Council's May 28th meeting, the Council Chair further advises that the following allocations would serve and promote the goals of the Council and further the development of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan:

- A \$25,000 annual allocation to the Resiliency Office for the remainder of 2024, and for each of 2025, 2026, and 2027, totaling \$100,000 over the course of the Quadrennial Budget.
- A \$5,000 annual allocation to the Washtenaw County Environmental Council for the remainder of 2024, and for each of 2025, 2026, and 2027, totaling \$20,000 over the course of the Quadrennial Budget.

Therefore, I have attached some draft, suggested language for a Resolution for the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to consider. Passing this Resolution will enable the BOC to take advantage of this important opportunity to support the successful implementation of the County's climate action plan, Resilient Washtenaw, and to support the work of its Resiliency Officers when hired, and its citizen volunteers on the WCEC now and going forward.

Sincerely,

Michelle Deatrick

Chair, Washtenaw County Environmental Council

DRAFT Resolution
Recommended for Adoption by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
Authorizes Re-Allocation of Unspent Funds For Resiliency Office Staff
To the Resiliency Office and to the Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners' four-year budget, passed on December 6, 2023, contains structural allocations for compensation of two new full-time staff - a Resilience Officer and a Resiliency Program Manager; and

Whereas, neither of these two staff members had been hired as of June 4, 2024; and

Whereas, the unspent funds allocated to compensation for these two positions amount to well over \$100,000 already; and

Whereas, the Resiliency Office has no budget allocation beyond that allocated for the compensation of two Resilience Officers; and

Whereas, the Resiliency Office needs funds for training, reference materials, consultations and more; and

Whereas, when established, the Washtenaw County Environmental Council ("WCEC") had a budget as is evidenced by its Bylaws, which authorize expenditures by the Council; and

Whereas, per WCEC Bylaws approved by the Board of Commissioners, Council Members engage in outreach activities to the wider County community to promote and support the goals of the County's Climate Action Plan, Resilient Washtenaw, which requires materials, flyers, banners, visibility materials, and registration and fees that Council Members are currently funding from their personal funds; and

Whereas, the unspent funds allocated to the Resiliency Office staff positions will return to the General Fund absent action by the Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas, the Washtenaw County Environmental Council unanimously voted, in its May 28, 2024 meeting, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that unspent funds for the two Resilience Officer positions in the Quadrennial Budget be reallocated to provide budget support for both the Resiliency Office and the County Environmental Council in 2024 and beyond;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the following allocations to serve and promote the development and implementation of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan, and the activities of the Resiliency Office and the WCEC:

- I. \$25,000 annual allocation to the Resiliency Office for the remainder of 2024, and for each of 2025, 2026, and 2027, totaling \$100,000 over the course of the Quadrennial Budget.
- II. A \$5,000 annual allocation to the Washtenaw County Environmental Council for the remainder of 2024, and for each of 2025, 2026, and 2027, totaling \$20,000 over the course of the Quadrennial Budget.



THE COST OF INHERITANCE: AN AMERICA REFRAMED SPECIAL EXPLORES THE CURRENT-DAY PURSUIT OF REPARATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

Thursday, September 12, 2024

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Westgate Library, West Side Room

2503 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Please join the Washtenaw County Advisory Council on Reparations for a free screening of ***The Cost of Inheritance: An American ReFramed Special*** on Thursday, September 12 at 5:30 PM. The one-hour film traces the nation's legacy of systematic inequities to modern-day America, introducing audiences to descendants of enslaved persons and slave owners, profiling their complex intertwined histories, and detailing how their quest to bridge divides galvanized them to seek reparations together.

The Advisory Council on Reparations was established in 2023 with the goal of outlining specific ways that County policies and practices have historically and continually harmed the lives of Black people and to develop recommendations for the Board of Commissioners in the form of a Washtenaw Reparations Plan.

"I am thrilled to see the Advisory Council on Reparations beginning their vital community engagement work through the screening of 'The Cost of Inheritance'." Commissioner Justin Hodge, Chair of the Board, District 5. "This public event will provide a platform for meaningful dialogue with the community

in order to address historical injustices. I am excited about the opportunities ahead for the Council and look forward to seeing the impactful work for the residents of Washtenaw County.”

The documentary examines how reparations are defined and for whom they are sought. Personal stories, expert interviews, and rich archival materials weave a narrative around the status of strategies for reparations, restitution, and restoration today.

QUOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

This is the first public event hosted by the Advisory Council on Reparations and members of the council will be present to lead a conversation after the screening on the work being done by the Council. If you would like to attend this free screening, please register for your free ticket here: [Register for the Cost of Inheritance Film Screening Here](#). Please send any questions to Council Staff Ashley Hall at halla@washtenaw.org.



THE COST OF INHERITANCE

AN **AMERICA REFRAMED** SPECIAL

September 12, 2024 5:30 PM

Hosted by: Washtenaw County Advisory Council on Reparations

Westgate Library, West Side Room
2503 Jackson Ave Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Rockefeller
Brothers Fund

MacArthur
Foundation



Register for free tickets here

