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# Commission to Study the History of the Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth

September 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

General Assembly Building, House Room B-205

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/720>

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The Commission to Study the History of the Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, chair, presiding.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began with the chair's introduction, followed by a presentation and the adoption of a work plan and virtual meeting policy. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meeting webpage](#). Video recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

### **Presentation: Review of the Proceedings of the Subcommittee on Research and Analysis**

*Trevor Merrion, Senior Associate, Division of Legislative Services*

Mr. Merrion summarized the activities of the Subcommittee on Research and Analysis (the subcommittee) at its June 16, 2025, meeting. The subcommittee reviewed information provided by public institutions of higher education in response to the chair's December 2024 inquiry and discussed categorizing institutions into three tiers based on the extent to which each institution had acquired property through eminent domain or in majority-Black neighborhoods. Mr. Merrion reported on a proposed expansion of the subcommittee's charge offered by Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, highlighted the subcommittee's discussion of hiring a project coordinator to support the Commission's work, and revisited the Commission's overall purpose and duties. He also identified areas for further research and analysis in response to questions and comments from Commission members.

### **Member Discussion**

Members discussed the responsibilities and qualifications for the project coordinator position that would support the Commission. Suggested revisions to the proposed job description that were presented at the meeting included: (i) organizing duties thematically; (ii) broadening educational requirements to include all master's degrees; (iii) allowing relevant and equivalent professional experience in lieu of a degree; (iv) adding procurement, contract management, and preparation of the final report to the coordinator's responsibilities; (v) specifying that travel would be required; and (vi) expanding the experience criteria to include assessing property

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Delegate Delores L. McQuinn (chair), Senator David W. Marsden, Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Ellen H. Campbell, Delegate Karen Keys-Gamarra, Delegate Jeion A. Ward, Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee, Joni Ivey, Dr. Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander

**Members Absent:** Senator Lamont Bagby (vice-chair), Senator J.D. "Danny" Diggs, Senator Mamie E. Locke, Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata, Peter A. Blake, Dr. Byron Cherry, Carl Edmonds, A. Scott Fleming, Julian Maxwell Hayter, Secretary Aimee Rogstad Guidera

records, reviewing land use issues, managing recruitment and contracts, and conducting investigative journalism.

Members emphasized that all candidates should be asked identical, comprehensive questions during the interview process. Delegate McQuinn highlighted the need for a hiring committee to develop these questions and oversee the process, and she appointed Dr. Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander, Delegate Anthony, Delegate Karen Keys-Gamarra, and Delegate Jeion A. Ward to assist her in this effort.

There was a motion to publish the project coordinator job description after the revisions discussed at the meeting were incorporated. The motion was adopted unanimously.

There was a motion to authorize the hiring committee to execute the hiring process. The motion was adopted unanimously.

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For more information, see the [\*Commission's website\*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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