

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

Charge and Planning Work Sheets

May 20, 2025

House Room B, Room 205, 2nd Floor

General Assembly Building

Commission Charge

- **Purpose:**

“...study and determine (i) whether any public institution of higher education has purchased, expropriated, or otherwise taken possession of property owned by any individual or entity within the boundaries of a community in which a majority of the residents are Black in order to establish or expand the institution's campus and (ii) whether and what form of compensation or relief would be appropriate for any individual described in clause (i) or any of his lineal descendants.”

- **Duties:**

- Consult with each public institution of higher education to determine whether the institution has purchased, expropriated, or otherwise taken possession of property
- Research whether similar acquisitions have occurred in other states
- Analyze, in conjunction with the relevant public institution of higher education and such other stakeholders as it deems appropriate, whether and what form of compensation or relief would be appropriate
- Consult with such experts as it deems appropriate

Commission Work Plan

Full Commission Meeting #1 - 5/20, 1 pm

- Introduction of members
- Restatements of charge/establish timeline
- Review of available funding
- Subcommittee membership
- Clarification of subcommittee interaction/charges
- Review funding sources
- Re-adopt Virtual Meeting policy

Subcommittees meet (June)

Full Commission Meeting #2 - 7/22, 10 am or 1 pm

- Scheduled speakers and presentations
- Receive subcommittee reports
- Take any necessary actions

Subcommittees meet (August)

Commission Work Plan

Full Commission Meeting #3 - 9/16, 10 am or 1 pm

- Scheduled speakers and presentations
- Receive subcommittee reports
- Take any necessary actions

Subcommittees meet (October)

Full Commission Meeting #4 - Week of 11/3 or 11/17, 10 am or 1 pm

- Approve final report containing recommendations responsive to the charge

Subcommittee Charge Work Sheet

- Subcommittee #1 Research and Analysis
- Subcommittee #2 Institutional Liaison
- Subcommittee #3 African American Displacement
- Subcommittee #4 Compensation and Relief

Subcommittee #1 Research and Analysis

- (i) review/digest survey responses
- (ii) develop follow-up queries
- (iii) develop plan for additional research, if needed
- (iv) present findings and recommendations to full Commission

Target Completion: *August/September 2025*

Subcommittee #2 Institutional Liaison

- (i) develop and execute outreach plan including establishment of single "point of contact" for institution and the encouragement of engagement by institutions
- (ii) establish ongoing lines of communication with institutions
- (iii) assist Subcommittee #1
- (iv) consider options and strategies for release of Commission's findings to institutions
- (iv) present recommendations to full Commission

Target Completion: ***October 2025***

Subcommittee #3 African American Displacement

- (i) develop overall strategy for engaging and documenting affected communities
- (ii) hold in-person or virtual public hearings
- (iii) establish accessible written comment boards
- (iv) receive recommendations and suggestions from affected communities regarding solutions, including compensation and relief
- (v) compile information for presentation to full Commission

Target Completion: *September 2025*

Subcommittee #4 Compensation and Relief

- (i) research forms of compensation and relief and programs instituted by other states and jurisdictions
- (ii) develop forms of compensation or relief, both monetary and non-monetary, that may be appropriate for displaced communities and individuals
- (iii) develop criteria or guidelines to provide a uniform approach to addressing compensation or relief
- (iv) present recommendations to full Commission regarding compensation, including any necessary funding

Target Completion: ***October 2025***