

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

Review of Proceedings of the Research and Analysis Subcommittee

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September 18, 2025

Review of Responses from Public Institutions

Christopher Newport University/The College of William & Mary

- Number of properties acquired in the Shoe Lane community being determined by the Shoe Lane Task Force

Longwood University

- Approximately 70 properties acquired in the geographic area known as "the triangle," including 11 through condemnation proceedings between 1911 and 1991

Old Dominion University

- More than 160 properties in the Lambert's Point community acquired through the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority and eminent domain law

Review of Responses from Public Institutions

University of Virginia

- Property acquired in the Gospel Hill community and expansion in the Vinegar Hill and Fifeville communities

Virginia Community College System

- New River Community College in Dublin and Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg built on land acquired through eminent domain
- J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond located in a majority-Black neighborhood

Review of Responses from Public Institutions

Radford University

- Acquired the historic building of Lovely Mount Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church) in 1961

Virginia Commonwealth University

- Siegel Center located in the Carver community

Virginia Military Institute

- Property acquisitions in the Diamond Hill community in 1978 and possibly earlier

Review of Responses from Public Institutions

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)

- Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center in the City of Suffolk

Virginia State University

- Property acquisitions in a majority-Black neighborhood, though the majority of sellers were not Black

Review of Responses from Public Institutions

Institutions Reporting No Acquisitions by Eminent Domain or in Majority-Black Neighborhoods:

George Mason University

James Madison University

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

University of Mary Washington

University of Virginia's College at Wise

***Awaiting reply from Norfolk State University**

Research & Analysis Subcommittee

Proposed organizing institutions by priority as follows:

Tier 1

- Christopher Newport University / W&M
- Old Dominion University
- Longwood University
- the Virginia Community College System
- the University of Virginia

Tier 2

- Radford University
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Military Institute

Tier 3

- Institutions reporting no property acquisitions by eminent domain or in a majority-Black neighborhood

Research & Analysis Subcommittee

- **Proposed expansion of Subcommittee's charge:**
 - Design the analytic framework to assess institutional land acquisition and displacement, including historical timelines, property records, and legal proceedings.
 - Guide the scope and review process for all contracted research partners, including legal, planning, and archival analysts.
 - Review and synthesize independent research findings and GIS outputs to identify systemic trends, patterns of harm, and institutional variance.
 - Validate institutional self-reporting against legal and historical records, including deeds, eminent domain proceedings, and demographic trends.
 - Compile periodic findings to inform full Commission deliberations and identify data gaps requiring future investigation.

Research & Analysis Subcommittee

- **Proposed hiring project coordinator and potentially other experts to:**
 - Acquire more data and contextual information to provide a full scope of the issue
 - Assess the disparity in home value assessments for white and Black owners selling homes through eminent domain proceedings and the lost generational wealth of displaced communities
 - Study the research methods and processes of other entities examining this issue
 - Assist other subcommittees as needed
 - Document the work of the Commission and promote transparency with the public

Commission's Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to 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.

Commission's Duties

- i. Consult with each public institution of higher education to determine whether the institution has purchased, expropriated, or otherwise taken possession of property owned by any individual 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;
- ii. Research whether acquisitions similar to those described in the commission's purpose have occurred in other states;
- iii. 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 for any individual described in the commission's purpose or any of his lineal descendants; and
- iv. Consult with such experts as it deems appropriate to assist it in carrying out its duties as set forth in this section.