

Minutes for the June 9, 2021 Meeting of the New York City Racial Justice Commission

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Racial Justice Commission was held via videoconference, telephone dial-in, and Internet livestream at 4:30 p.m. on June 9, 2021.

The Chair, Jennifer Jones Austin, was present and presided. The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Henry Garrido, Vice Chair
- K. Bain
- Ana M. Bermúdez
- Lurie Daniel Favors
- Darrick Hamilton
- Chris Kui
- Yesenia Mata (joined at 4:54 p.m.)
- Deputy Mayor Phil Thompson
- Jo-Ann Yoo

Rev. Fred Davie was not present.

The Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum to conduct the meeting. The Chair also announced a special meeting of the Commission with prominent civil rights leaders for June 18th in honor of Juneteenth.

Executive Director Anusha Venkataraman provided an update on the work of the Commission staff since the last meeting.

The Chair called for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting of the Commission. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Vice Chair Henry Garrido, seconded by Deputy Mayor Thompson, and subsequently adopted unanimously by all Commission members present at approximately 4:45 p.m.

The Chair led a discussion with Commissioners on structural change and foundational values. Senior Advisor to the Racial Justice Commission Kapil Longani provided additional historical context for the meaning of structural change, referencing the 1989 Charter Revision Commission as well as the South African Constitution. Commissioners asked questions and made remarks.

Public Engagement Director Jacqueline Kennedy shared with the Commission the proposed public engagement strategy, and Policy Director and Special Counsel Jimmy Pan provided the Commission with an overview of the structure for expert panels, which are expected to begin in July.

Executive Director Venkataraman shared next steps, asked for feedback on the engagement proposals discussed, and shared the upcoming meeting schedule.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.