

Minutes for the September 14, 2021, Meeting of the New York City Racial Justice Commission

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Racial Justice Commission was held virtually and livestreamed for remote public viewing at 4:30 p.m. on September 14, 2021.

The Chair, Jennifer Jones Austin, was present and presided. Also present were the following Commissioners:

- Henry Garrido, Vice Chair
- Ana M. Bermúdez
- Fred Davie
- Chris Kui
- J. Phil Thompson
- Jo-Ann Yoo
- Yesenia Mata
- K. Bain
- Darrick Hamilton
- Lurie Daniel Favors

The Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum (Chair Austin and Commissioners Bermudez, Davie, Kui, Thompson, and Yoo) to conduct the meeting and called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. The Chair made welcoming remarks and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

The Chair called for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the August 9, 2021 meeting of the Commission. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Kui, and subsequently adopted unanimously by Commission members present at approximately 4:40 p.m.

Commissioners Mata and Garrido joined the meeting at approximately 4:42 p.m.

Executive Director Anusha Venkataraman provided an overview of the timeline for the Commission from September through December 2021 including proposed Commission meeting dates of September 27, October 19, November 16, December 3, and December 15.

Commissioners Hamilton and Bain joined the meeting between 4:45-4:49 p.m.

Commissioners asked questions about the timeline, including whether and when the preamble would be voted on by the Commission. The staff advised the Commissioners that it was intended that the preliminary report would include a draft preamble and that the final version of the preamble would be voted on by the Commissioners at the December meeting, and if approved, attached to the final report as a ballot proposal. Commissioners engaged in a discussion concerning the timing of the release of a draft preamble.

Commissioner Daniel Favors joined the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.

At 5:05 p.m., the Chair noted that the Commission had previously delegated the day to day work of the Commission to the Executive Director of the Commission, but that delegation made no mention of the preliminary report. The Chair then introduced a resolution by which the Commission would give the staff authority to prepare and release a preliminary report. Commissioner Bermudez read the proposed resolution into the record at 5:09 p.m.

The Chair called for a motion to adopt the resolution. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Vice Chair Garrido and seconded by Commissioner Yoo at 5:14 p.m. The Commissioners engaged in discussions concerning the language of the resolution and proposed amending the resolution consistent with those discussions. Executive Director Venkataraman made real-time edits to the resolution consistent with the Commissioners' requested changes, including designating the preliminary report as an Interim Staff Report.

Commissioner Garrido accepted the amendments as friendly. Commissioner Hamilton read the amendments to the resolution into the record, after which time Commissioner Bermudez proposed another friendly amendment. The Chair then called for a vote on the resolution as amended and it passed unanimously at 5:46 p.m.

Policy Director and Special Counsel Jimmy Pan then provided the Commissioners with an update on the Commission's Working Groups, and Deputy Executive Director for External Affairs Harold Miller summarized the public engagement conducted by the Commission from July through early September and provided an overview of plans for the next phase of public engagement.

The Chair then advised Commissioners that in advance of the next meeting they will receive drafts of the preamble and Interim Staff Report.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

A transcription of the entire Commission Meeting will be prepared and uploaded to <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/racialjustice/commissionmeetings/pastmeetings.page>.