

Boston, Jan 28, 2025

**Bruce C. Bolling Building
2300 Washington St Roxbury, MA 02119
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Racial Task Force Meeting**

Agenda:

1. Chair of Reparations Task Force Opens Meeting and takes roll call of RTF members
2. Notice of language accommodations and interpreters' introduction
3. Opening remarks \ Vote on securing economist (public comments from 12/16/2025)
4. Tufts University research update and critical findings
5. Public Comments
6. Update for Next Meeting
7. Adjournment

Notes:

- **Meeting called to order at 615pm**
- Opening Remarks and notice of language accommodations and interpreters' introduction by Mariama White-Hammond leading the meeting in the absence of Chair Feaster.
 - Present taskforce members greet the community members attending the meeting
 - Introduction of MWH of the Tufts University Research team
- **Present:**
 - Dorothea Jones (DJ)
 - L'Marchie Frizier (LF)
 - Mariama White-Hammond (MWH)
 - Antonia Edwards (AE)
- **Absent:**
 - Chair Joseph Feaster (Excused Absence)
 - Byron Rushing
- **Motions:**
 - Motion to engage an economist who would engage with both research teams (MWH) - "Based on the suggestions and feedback from 12/16 meeting, make a call to the taskforce to vote favorably on hiring an economist"
- **Votes:**
 - Vote on securing economist (public comments from 12/16/2025) ■

Unanimous vote in favor (DJ, LF, MWH, AE)

- **Presentation by Tufts University on research updates and critical finding** ○

Shared key archival repositories

- Highlighted genealogical and descendant lead aspects of their work ○

Shared some past exhibits from research team that demonstrate the work (e.g. African American Trail project)

- Provided an overview of the timeframe of their research (1620-1940)

- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the Founding of Boston

- Segregation, Discrimination, and Economic exploitation

- Law Enforcement and Criminalization

- Freedom and Black Social, Political, and Legal Activism

- 3 Methodologies used in their research:

- Mapping people and places

- Impact of laws and policies on everyday lives

- Incorporating history and genealogy

- Provided a timeline of the origins of slavery legislation (Method #2)

- Tying it to stories of individuals

- Establishing the historical context through the following research questions:

- Who were the enslaved in Boston? Where did they come from? ■ How did slave labor and trading contribute to Boston industries, familial wealth, and economy from 1620-1790?

- How did Boston's economy benefit from the trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery from 1790-1865?

- How did city policies, both official and unofficial, effect Bostonians' employment, education, and housing opportunities between 1790-1940?

- How were people of African descent excluded from the Boston economy between 1620 and 1940?

- How did city policies, both official and unofficial, effect Bostonians' employment, education, and housing opportunities between 1620 and 1940?

- How did enslaved and free Black people shape the social, political, economic, and legal culture in Boston and define freedom on their own terms?

- Provided insights on preliminary historical records found and the stories the records can inform

- Show preliminary findings on property ownership through historical records and challenge notions/presumptions of where Black Bostonians lived and

worked

- Long history of homeownerships
- Show historical records (Census)
 - Show in Census when "legally" enslaved people no longer are recorded in MA as compared to other states
 - Begin mapping human movements in Boston by neighborhood
 - Tracking labor and occupation
 - The effects of slavery (and ending of slavery) in other states on MA and Boston (the context of the global history of enslavement)
- Boston Economy (1865-1900)
 - Long term effects of systematic discrimination in the labor market
- In 1940 showing approx. location of Black communities
 - Where were folks located and what were the impacts of laws on those locations and relocations?
 - Boston industries and Black labor
- **Questions to the Tufts Researchers:**
 - When were racial discrimination civil suits abolished? What was the role of 14th Amendment as it relates to the previous question?
 - Will Financial Institutions (Banks, Insurance Companies) be included in the report?
 - Have you connected with Clergy on this report? Have you also included information on the Great Migration from the South to the North and Boston? ○ Report seems to focus a lot on wages and work, what about the terror and killing of Black people?
 - What about the skills and benefits that enslaved people brought to the country? Will you factor those into the report?
 - Will the report include information about properties that were taken by eminent domain?
 - How does the research tie back to the original ordinance?
- MWH thanks the researchers for their presentation and opens the floor to public comment by underscoring the connection between the findings presented today and the findings presented by Northeastern last meeting. MWH also clarifies distinction between the research teams and the task force who commissioned the research. LF echoes MWH. AE also provides further context on the ordinance and provides general context to the scope of the research.

- **Public Comment:**

- Public member provided comment on different groups working on reparations and why they can't work together.
- Public member provided comment on needing more American Freedman acknowledgements while including additional research.
 - MWH provides context that the language that was used by the people at the time → however, it seems like there is a request to use language that is relevant to terms today
- Public member provided comment asking about the continuation of slavery
- Public member provided comment on the research presented and commended the detail in the work. Also pleased on the engagement of an economist. Also suggested the taskforce consider using the framework put forward by David S Swinton from the 1990s for the economist's work. Question about the taskforce members who no longer are members of the taskforce.
 - MWH says that the question will be addressed at the next meeting
- Public member provided comments on their impression of Black men and youth not being included at the taskforce table. Provided comment about existing research and lived experience as a resident of Grove Hall. Asks if the public can provide the taskforce with literature recommendations to be included in research. Provided comment on what the definition of eligibility should be.
- Public members shared prayer and frustrations on the historical responses/lack of responses as it relates to reparations. Provided recommendations on what they believe eligibility criteria should include
- Public member provided comment on their understanding of what eligibility should include
- Public member provided comment on lived experience in the 1970-80 and shared their opinion of expanding eligibility criteria
- Public member provided comment expressing gratitude to the Task Force and urged fellow public members to understand each other's frustrations and to be compassionate
- MWH acknowledges the deep interest in 1910-1970 in public comment and also emphasized the large scope of history that is now growing and will be communicated to the researchers.
- MWH asks folks who want to provide frameworks and research to the taskforce please email these to Khalid via the website contact information

● **Update for Next Meeting:**

- Information about the February meeting will be shared with those on the

mailing list

- Adjust practices so that the next meeting is announced at the end of the session

● **Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm**