

The Restorative Justice Commission Report

Board: The Restorative Justice Commission

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Date: March 5, 2024

Report Overview:

Part ONE: Formal Requests to Mayor & Council

Part TWO: 2024 Calendar & Work Plans

Part THREE: 6 Month Recap/Review: October 2023 - March 2024

Part FOUR: Budget Update

Part ONE: Formal Requests to Mayor & Council

Request #1: MNCPPC Site Renaming

College Park Community Center to Lakeland College Park Community Center

The purpose of this request is to honor the historical significance of the Lakeland area in College Park and acknowledge its cultural and historical heritage.. The Lakeland area, with its rich history and significant contributions to the city, deserves recognition and remembrance.

Renaming the community center would be a fitting tribute and a constant reminder of our diverse and inclusive community values. While seldom recognized, the Lakeland community has always made significant historical, cultural, and social contributions to the City of College Park.

Renaming the community center would not only preserve this legacy but also educate future generations about the important role this area has played in shaping our city. We understand that a decision like this involves a careful consideration process, and we are more than willing to provide further information, participate in discussions, or organize community support if needed. This proposal is not just about changing a name, but about embracing and celebrating our community's rich and diverse history.

REQUEST: Endorse the renaming, communicate that endorsement to MNCPPC, and advocate for the change

Request #2: MNCPPC Site Renaming

Lake Artemesia Natural Area to Lake Artemesia Natural Area at Lakeland

Our request is for the renaming of Lake Artemesia to "Lake Artemesia at Lakeland," in recognition of the profound impact of urban renewal on the Lakeland community. The Lakeland community, a historic part of College Park, has been significantly affected by various urban renewal initiatives over the years. These changes, while aimed at development, have also led to the alteration of the community's landscape and its historical essence. In light of this, renaming Lake Artemesia to include "at Lakeland" would serve as a meaningful gesture to acknowledge the enduring spirit and resilience of the Lakelanders. This change would not only honor the historical significance of the Lakeland community but also ensure that the legacy of its people and their contributions to our city are remembered and celebrated. It is a way to bring the community's past and present together, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among all residents. We believe that this renaming would be a step forward in acknowledging and respecting the cultural heritage of the Lakeland community, which has played a crucial role in shaping the identity of College Park. We are ready to engage in any discussions or procedures required by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to move forward with this proposal. We are also prepared to collaborate with other local organizations and community leaders to garner support and facilitate this change.

REQUEST: Endorse the renaming, communicate that endorsement to MNCPPC, and advocate for the change

Request #3: City Staff/RJC Collaborative Efforts

1. Endorse the provision of support from the city's communications team in developing and implementing communications plan for the commission
2. Endorse the provision of support from the city's team in providing video recording of the town halls and other commission projects and make these available on a city sponsored public platform.

Request #4: Council Participation and Endorsement of RJC Efforts and Upcoming Events (Event Details are outlined in section 3 of this report).

1. Attend town halls event series and continue engagement in and support for the restorative justice process through the enactment of reparative action, known.
2. Encourage all members of the College Park Community to read Root shock and participate in the book club discussion hosted by College Park Arts Exchange.
 - a. We will have the book available for members of council in the coming weeks

Request #5: Adopt the Scholarship Program

1. Details are outlined in section 3 of this report.

End of Part ONE.

Part TWO: 2024 Calendar & Work Plans

RFP NO. CP-24-05: REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH CONSULTANT

The Restorative Justice Commission is charged with actively seeking opportunities for accountability and truth-telling about past injustice, and aggressively seeking opportunities for restorative and transformative justice. Key to this effort is the establishment of an accurate historical record of the Lakeland Community before and after urban renewal with a focus on the actions of the City and other parties. The City aims to hire an experienced interdisciplinary research team to establish a historical record of the Lakeland community with a focus on the actions of the City and other parties.

03/01/2024: Final Review of RFP and Contract before Publishing

SPRING TOWN HALL EVENT SERIES

Residents of College Park and the wider community are invited to join with the City of College Park Restorative Justice Commission for three Town Halls to explore together the past harms caused by public action and avenues for reparative action. This is done to form a foundation for the coming months when we will look at the actuarial harms committed in Lakeland so we may arrive at proposals for restorative actions. *RSVP Links will be provided from the city's communications department. Please see below for our calendar of events with event descriptions and information!*

Calendar/Event Info:

- 1. April 16, 2024: Mindy Fullilove Small Event for Lakelanders**
- 2. April 17, 2024: Lakeland and Root Shock with Dr. Mindy Fulilove**
 - a. Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7:30 PM, Washington Brazilian SDA Church (Lakeland High School site) 8108 54th Avenue, College Park, MD 20740
 - b. During our inaugural event Social psychiatrist, scholar, educator and writer, Mindy Fullilove will relate her theory of Root Shock to the community of Lakeland during an evening presentation.
- 3. May 18, 2024: Town Hall: What does repair look like?**
 - a. Saturday, May 18, 2024, 4:00 PM, Embury AME Church, 5101 Lakeland Road, College Park, MD 20740
 - b. A panel of individuals with lived experience in the work of reparative justice will share the stories of other communities. World renowned expert, Nkechi Tiefa will discuss the historic, international and national context of reparative action. Rev. Dale Snyder will share the story of the Hill District of Pittsburgh and Bethel AME Church while Corey Shaw will report on the Barry Farm and Chevy Chase

communities of Washington, DC. We will also have a message from Mayor Daniel Biss of Evanston, Illinois.

4. July 27, 2024: Shadows of Lakeland

- a. Location TBA
- b. During our third program a performance of Shadows of Lakeland, an original percussion composition inspired by the Lakeland story. The audience will have the chance to hear and feel the experiences of Lakelanders through this evocative musical work.

RJC PARTNERS, COLLABORATIONS, AND ALLYSHIPS

1. Lakeland Community Heritage Project
2. The Braxton Institute
 - a. The Braxton Institute co-creates collective strategies to repair and heal harms and traumas of historically oppressed communities and to lift up legacies of resistance and joy.
 - b. Braxton Institute Events - [Click Here](#)
 - c. The Decolonizing Wealth Project's #CASE4REPARATIONS Grant Recipient (Liberated Capital Decolonizing Wealth Fund)
 - i. The #Case4ReparationsFund is a first-of-its-kind annual funding vehicle to support local, regional and national movement-building and advocacy efforts to advance reparations in the United States. The Braxton Institute is building on these efforts with its "REPARATIONS FOR LAKE LAND NOW!" campaign focused on justice for the Lakeland community in College Park, Maryland. The funding initiative is aimed at fueling and amplifying conversations and campaigns around reparations to address the racial wealth gap facing Black people in the United States.

LAKELAND LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Description

The *Lakeland Legacy Scholarship Fund* will provide scholarships to Lakelanders engaged in self improvement programs in three categories, higher education, vocational education and restorative and transformative justice. This program aims to strengthen the knowledge base of Lakelanders that was lost through the displacement created by urban renewal.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet both general eligibility requirements as well as those for each specific program for which they are applying.

1. 10 years of documented residence in the Lakeland community of College Park, Maryland personally or by a person in their direct lineage – i.e., parent, grandparent, great grandparent, etc.
 - a. First priority will be given to individuals displaced by urban renewal and their direct descendants.

- b. Second priority will be given to individuals who themselves lived in Lakeland for at least ten years during the community's urban renewal period, 1965-1981 period or who are a descendent (direct lineage) of someone who did.
 - c. Third priority will be given to individuals who themselves lived in the Lakeland community for 10 years before or after the urban renewal period or who are a descendent (direct lineage) of someone who did.
- 2. Be a US citizen or permanent resident.
- 3. Demonstrate leadership potential and a dedication to community service.

Scholarship Categories, Overviews, and Requirements

- 1. Restorative and Transformative Justice Education Scholarships
 - a. Documented plan to attend a workshop, conference, or similar program focused on restorative justice, transformative justice, reparative justice, or related topics.
 - b. Commitment of at least 8 hours to restorative justice or community building efforts to benefit Lakeland within 12 months of the completion of their program attendance.
- 2. Vocational Education Scholarships
 - a. Documented plan to attend a workshop, class, or similar program designed to create or enhance income producing skills.
 - b. Commitment of at least 8 hours to restorative justice, or community building efforts to benefit Lakeland within 12 months of the completion of their program attendance.
- 3. Academic Scholarships
 - a. Undergraduate: 3 Awards/\$1000 Each
 - b. Graduate: 3 Awards/\$2000 Each
 - c. Full or part-time students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year in pursuit of their degree.
 - d. Documented demonstration of academic success
 - e. One letter of recommendation
 - f. Commitment of at least 8 hours to restorative justice, or community building efforts to benefit Lakeland within 12 months of the completion of their program attendance.

Proposed Timeline

- February 20, 2024** Approval of Program Plan and outline by Commission February
- March, 2024** Release Program application
- April, 2024** Application Deadline (Quarterly grant deadlines)
- May/June 2024** Announce first class of scholarships

End of Part TWO.

Part THREE: 6 Month Recap/Review: October 2023 - March 2024

Commission

- Monthly Meetings for Commission and Committees Resume with an updated roster for the commission as a whole, and participants in the work of the committees.
- Attended National Symposium for State and Local Reparations (Staff Liaison/RJC Chair)
- New RJC Site Draft sent to City Manager
- Dr. Joanne Braxton (Speaker at MTG) from the Braxton Institute
- Budget Update Request for each committee
- [Thurston Family Support Fund](#)

Restorative & Transformative Justice Committee:

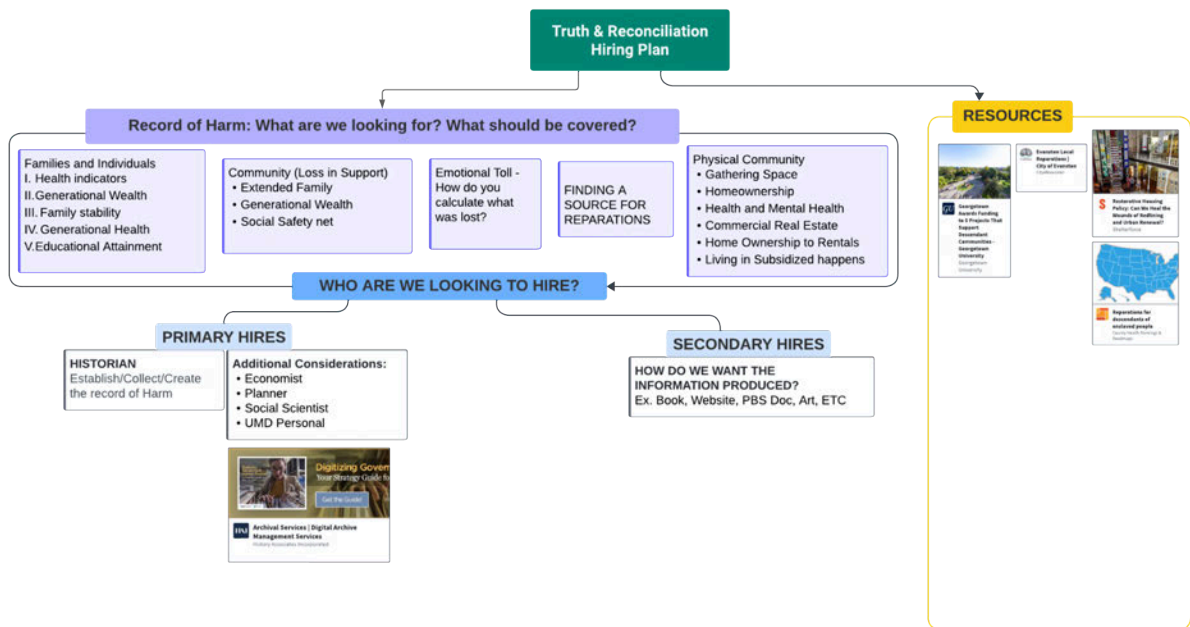
- Begin Planning another community day for Lakeland
- Work with City attorney to provide guidance on city charter (Charter Decision sent to Council)
- Re-Naming Recommendations (3)
 - Renaming Letters Sent
 - CP Community Center - Letter Delivery to MD-National Capital Park and Planning Commission RJC Suggestion: Lakeland Community Center
 - Paint Branch Elementary Letter Delivery to PG County Public Schools
 - Lake Artemesia Letter Delivery to MD-National Capital Park and Planning Commission RJC Suggestion: Lake Artemesia at Lakeland
- Grants/Scholarships:
 - Begin work on Scholarship/Grants Program and create guidelines
 - Eligibility determined:
 - Priority #1 goes to individuals with direct lineage to someone displaced by urban renewal as identified by the acquisition list or similar documents from the urban renewal period (one has property owner and the other is a list of saying when various families moved out from 1981)
 - Priority #2 individuals who had a family member living (direct lineage) in Lakeland for at least ten years for a period that included the period from 1965-1881 (urban renewal period)
 - Priority #3 individuals who lived in the Lakeland community for 10 years before or after the urban renewal period or are direct lineage of one of those people.
 - Grants/Scholarship Motion to change amount passed: Increase undergraduate award (3) to \$1,000 each and the graduate (3) to \$2,000
 - Grants/Scholarship proposals for additional programs
 - Lakeland Legacy Scholarship Fund
 - Lakeland Legacy Reparative Justice Grant Program
 - Lakeland Legacy Grant Program

Community Engagement Committee:

- Educational Series for 2024 Planning: 3 Event Proposal: Mindy Fullilove, Shadows of Lakeland, Panel Discussion: Idea of “restorative justice” or “reparations”
 - Kayla Present Branding Concepts/Examples to Commission
 - Begin planning for a town hall
 - Lakelanders Engagement & Participation: Locating the members in the community that we are attempting to engage: Local News papers, facebook groups, Etc.
 - Educational Series Event 1 booked (Mindy Fullilove)
- Logistics (RJC Brand/Marketing)
 - Linktree Created by Kayla (<https://linktr.ee/rjcommission>)
 - Website work began and well as Logo and branding package (Kayla)

Truth and Reconciliation Committee:

- RFP for historian created and submitted (currently in process with the city)
- Research and reach out to African American Redress Network., First Repair, National African American Reparations Commission to get a sense of how our work compares
- Created hiring plan for what documentation looks like moving forward
 - Exploration of items to be included in record of harm
 - Exploration of methods of assessing items to be included in the record



End of Part THREE.

Part FOUR: Budget Update

FY24 (July 2023 – June 2024) Allocated Budget \$200,000		
EXPENDITURE / BREAKDOWN	TOTAL SPENT	Payment Confirmed/Held
LAKELAND DAY <i>FedEX (\$861.66)</i> <i>Staples (\$65.71)</i> <i>Amazon (\$385.69)</i> <i>Fun Stuff for Kids, Inc. (\$993.95)</i> <i>CustomOne (\$1618.20)</i>	\$3,925.21	Paid
<i>CustomOne T-Shirts</i>	\$1,379.92	Paid
CustomOne Sweatshirts	\$539.15	Paid
1st Repair Conference Attendance 2 Hotel Rooms (1156.04) 2 RT Flight (\$781.75) Rental Car/Uber/Food/Etc. (\$367.22)	\$2,305.01	Paid
Staples Cards	\$25.35	Paid
RJC WEBSITE (Go Daddy Platform) One Year Premium Subscription (\$256.37) Domain Purchase: TBD	\$256.37	Paid
Book Order: Root Shock (10)	\$243.27	Paid
Mindy Fullilove Payment #1	\$5,181.35	Paid
Undergrad Scholarship Fund (3)	\$3,000.00	Held (Allocated Funds)
Graduate Scholarship Fund (3)	\$6,000.00	Held (Allocated Funds)
Grant Award Allocation: Restorative and Transformative Justice Education Vocational Education	\$10,000.00	Held (Allocated Funds)
Mindy Fullilove Payment #2	\$5,181.35	Held (Allocated Funds)
Total Spent	\$38,036.98	

End of Part FOUR.

13 C

Update Needs-Based Student Housing Subsidy Pilot Program