

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ENABLING AUTHORITY: CODE OF VIRGINIA - § 2.2-2555 (A.5.)

The Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent De Jure and De Facto Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans (the Commission) was established by Chapter 1043 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, codified as §§ 2.2-2551 through 2.2-2557 of the Code of Virginia and effective July 1, 2020. The Commission was extended from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2024, with HB139 of the 2022 General Assembly session.

In 2023, the Commission to Study Slavery and Subsequent Racial and Economic Discrimination Against African Americans focused on identifying its proposed recommendations and preparing its final report. The Commission's 2023 activities included:

Meetings: The Commission met regularly throughout the year and addressed various topics related to the Commission's mandate. During the meetings, the Project Manager presented detailed reports on the progress made in various areas such as economics, education, healthcare, justice, equity, and voting rights. The Commission continued its work within subcommittees, providing critical knowledge and real-time updates on their assigned areas of expertise. Additionally, the Commission reviewed and approved biographic and secondary resources that will be included in its final report and public website. The Commission also updated its website for more efficient access to meeting information and recordings. The website can be found at: <https://commissiontostudyslavery.lva.virginia.gov/>

DELEGATE DELORES L. MCQUINN
CHAIR
SEVENTIETH HOUSE DISTRICT

In August, the Commission outlined preliminary recommendations, advocating for robust support for economic initiatives, educational reforms, healthcare equity, and legal justice. These preliminary recommendations will be detailed in the Commission's final report, expected by June 30, 2024.

Throughout the year, the Commission received in-person comments and remarks from members of the public in multiple meetings.

As the Commission to Study Slavery approaches its conclusion on June 30, 2024, it plans to continue its research and understanding of the history of slavery in Virginia and the United States. It will also continue its work to identify practical and impactful recommendations and further engagement with the public to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness in its approaches.

Commissioners

The Honorable Delores L. McQuinn, Chair
Virginia House of Delegates, 70th District

The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Vice Chair
Senate of Virginia, District 2

Dr. Jody Allen
Robert Francis Engs Director, The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation
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Dr. Andrea Douglas
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Dr. John Kinney
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Dr. Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander
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Emeritus Director of Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for African Diaspora Studies
Norfolk State University

Mr. Xavier Richardson
Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer
President of Mary Washington Hospital and Stafford Hospital Foundations

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