

5/14 Memorial Commission – MINUTES  
**Monday May 22, 2023**  
**Rich Products, 1 Rich Way, Buffalo NY**

**PRESENT IN PERSON ATTENDANCE**

Pastor Mark Blue, Chairman  
Jonathan Dandes, Rich Products  
Crystal Rodriguez Dabney, City of Buffalo Deputy Mayor  
Diane Colgan, Senior Vice President, Tops Friendly Markets  
Steven Carmina, President Carmina Wood Design  
Garnell Whitfield, 5/14 Family Member  
Mo Sumbundu, International Trade Manager NYS Empire State Development  
Dr. Norm Lewin, Buffalo Arts Commission  
Dr. Amitra Wall, Buffalo State University  
Larry Stitts, Burchfield Penny Arts Center

**PRESENT ONLINE ATTENDANCE**

Tiffany Gains

**HOSTS:** Angelica Morrison Communications and Community Relations Assistant Manager City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown; (on vacation) Deirdre Quain Director of Policy City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown

**COMMISSION UPDATES**

- Logo was picked and is now in use.
- Website is live can be found at [www.514memorial.com](http://www.514memorial.com)
- The public meeting is set for June 13<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Makowski School on Jefferson Avenue

**NEW**

- Dr. Amitra Wall from Buffalo State University is assisting with the survey design.
- Timekeeper is needed for the public engagement meeting.
- Pastor Blue suggests that a clock is needed to help keep time for the open public forum during the event.
- Diane Colgan suggests that meeting attendees who do not want to speak can write their thoughts down on paper to submit to the commission.
- The program for June 13 public engagement meeting will feature welcome remarks from the mayor and the governor's office, then Dr. Wall can introduce the survey and discuss the survey, followed by a public forum.
- Garnell Whitfield suggested having a mental health professional present during the public meeting just in case someone gets upset.

**SURVEY DISCUSSION**

- Offer location ideas for attendees to pick from -- Locations other than the one block area surrounding TOPS. Ideas for other locations include MLK park or Canalside.

**FUNDRAISING**

- Jonathan Dandes says he would be willing to set up a team for fundraising.
- Pastor Blue says he does not want to use Go Fund Me
- Buffalo Urban League has an account that they're using for fundraising from the "5/14 Remembrance Committee" The idea was shared that the Urban League could continue to monitor fundraising.
- The idea was expressed to create a fundraising platform that will allow for international donations.
- The idea was expressed that clarification is needed for the fundraising aspect of the memorial.

**Next Meeting: June 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**