

## 5/14 Memorial Commission – MINUTES

June 20, 2023

Rich Products, 1 Rich Way, Buffalo NY

### PRESENT IN PERSON ATTENDANCE

Pastor Mark Blue, Chairman  
City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown  
Steven Carmina, President Carmina Wood Design  
Dr. Amitra Wall, Buffalo State University  
Mo Sumbundu, NYS Empire State Development  
Garnell Whitfield, 5/14 Family Member  
Dr. A. Norman Lewin, Buffalo Arts Commission  
Thomas Beauford, President & CEO Buffalo Urban League  
Fragrance Harris-Stanfield, 5/14 Survivor and employee of Tops

### PRESENT ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Zeneta Everhart, 5/14 Family Member  
Jonathan Dandes, Corporate Vice President of Government Relations and Special Projects, Rich Products  
Tiffany Gains, Curatorial & Digital Content Associate, Burchfield Penney Art Center  
Julia Bottoms, Artist

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

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

- Dr. Amitra Wall said the first public meeting went well.
- Dr. Amitra Wall said most respondents at the meeting were in favor of a physical and nonphysical memorial.
- Mo Sumbundu said it seemed attendees were a bit shy at first, but when the questions were read out loud attendees began to come to the microphone and share their thoughts.

### SURVEY

- Dr. Amitra Wall discussed the initial survey results.
- The survey results were emailed to the group for review.
- Ideas were expressed about including a printed copy of the full survey in the Challenger Newspaper.
- Thomas Beauford suggested the group add a question to the survey asking how people found the survey.
- Dr. Lewin suggested more promotion for the survey.
- Suggestions were made to push the survey on social media, local churches and ministerial conferences and groups.

### FUNDRAISING

- Thomas Beauford gave an update on the remaining funds from the 5/14 Remembrance Committee fundraising efforts. Beauford says about \$100,000 in funds may be left.
- Mayor Byron W. Brown says the 5/14 Remembrance Committee plans to use some of the remaining funds to create a documentary style video.
- A desire for a fundraising button on the 5/14 Memorial website was expressed. Thomas Beauford Jr. stated a fundraising button is possible, however companies that offer this service may have a fee associated with their services.
- Mayor Byron W. Brown said that if the Urban League is going to be continuing their management of the fundraising funds, then they should be compensated because they might not be able to donate their services.
- Thomas Beauford said some funds from the Urban League were used to cover some of the costs associated with 5/14 Weekend and reimbursement may be needed.
- Mayor Byron W. Brown says before the commission moves forward with continued fundraising efforts the “public process” needs to be completed and a decision needs to be made about the type of memorial the group is creating. This will give donors a better visual of what the memorial will be.
- Mayor Byron W. Brown also suggests that a written agreement is created between the commission and the Urban League.

**NEXT COMMISSION MEETING: July 25 at 5:30**

**NEXT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS: July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center  
1095 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo 14208**