

**5/14 Memorial Commission
Minutes for October 16, 2023
Rich Products, 1 Rich Way, Buffalo NY**

PRESENT IN PERSON ATTENDANCE

Pastor Mark Blue, Chairman

Mayor Byron W. Brown

Jonathan Dandes, Corporate Vice President of Government Relations, and Special Projects Rich Products

Dr. Amitra Wall, Associate Provost Buffalo State University

Mo Sumbundu, NYS Governor Kathy Hochul Liaison

Garnell Whitfield, 5/14 Family Member

Dr. Norman Lewin, Buffalo Arts Commission

Fragrance Harris-Stanfield, Tops Employee and 514 Survivor

Zeneta Everhart, 5/14 Family Member

Larry Stitts, Jefferson Avenue Business Association

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Tiffany Gaines, Curatorial & Digital Content Associate, Burchfield Penney Art Center

HOSTS: Angelica Morrison Communications and Community Relations Assistant Manager City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown

Opening Remarks – Chairman Reverend Blue starts introductions.

Special Presentation – John Spears, Director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

- Mr. Spears discussed the library system's involvement with providing a supportive role to the community following the aftermath of the 5/14 racially motivated mass shooting at Tops Friendly Market on Jefferson Avenue in Buffalo.
- He says the public library system is currently looking at ways they can continue to engage the community as a library.
- The public library system is working with other cultural organizations to create some type of record and document not just the events but what lead up to the event. Spears says the work they are doing complements the work the commission is doing.
- The library is hoping to start collecting oral histories. The library wants to do it in a way where they can capture the past, capture the events of that day, and look to the future.

Special Presentation – James Bachwitz and Bart Roberts

- The group listened to a special presentation from UBRI regarding the preliminary survey results.
- Ametra survey update regarding the most recent survey responses.
- The group expressed interest in doing another push to increase the survey numbers.
- Mayor Brown stated his office will do another push.
- The Mayor also stated that his office, the governor's office and Reverend Blue received a letter from the Buffalo Arts Commission asking to promote the survey more broadly to reach people living in suburban areas. At the request of the Commission, the survey was promoted in East Buffalo, the area most directly impacted by the racially motivated mass shooting. The mayor stated his office will make an additional promotional push to areas outside the immediate area of impact.

5/14 rfp update

Mo gives update – says the information is on several websites, including linked in, pushing it as much as possible. To get as many pple to submit concept ideas as possible. All submission can go to the city or through the email on the website.

5/14 Budget Discussion – Update from Thomas Beauford Jr. Buffalo Urban League

Memorial Discussion

5/14 Survey Discussion

Next Meetings

- Nov. 20th , , 5:30 p.m., Rich Products Survey results available during this meeting.

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- will be made to areas outside the immediate impact zone.
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- We plan on doing another push for sure. The Governor's office, my office and Reverend Blue received a letter from the Buffalo Arts Commission. The letter came from Dr. Lewin and Catherine Gillespie the chair of the Arts Commission recommending that we get the survey out even more broadly. They would like to see individuals outside of the immediate area and the city of Buffalo also respond to the survey, with the feeling that the conditions that that created this require greater understanding of people living beyond the immediate environment where the horrible shooting took place.
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- The Commission has shown a preference for really leaning into that area of the city, making sure that those that were most directly affected, had the opportunity to be heard. So that has been a large part of the focus, but we will do another distribution and our thought was also my thought was also after getting that letter maybe to send this to the Buffalo Niagara partnership as well asking them to circulate it through their membership sending it to leadership Buffalo asking them to circulate it through their membership as as well in addition to the you know general general push to get another round of responses to the survey before November 1st does that capture it doctor Lewis it does and add to that a bit the commission out please

Norm -- The the need for people and to sort of own what happened I mean by and large so if people don't have impotence they process then they won't it won't change anything in terms of attitudes and minds going forward so exactly the thing that happened happened for a reason and that has to be addressed so we have done a great job here with focusing on the monument and the area where it happened which is very important but we think going forward we have to look at the bigger picture and get people involved people should think about this people should answer the survey and relate to what happened so they can have some sort of input into the process