



## Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

August 21, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

House Room C, General Assembly Building

[mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov](http://mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov)

The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, chair, presiding.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#). Video of the meeting is archived on the [House of Delegates Video Streaming](#) webpage.

### **Lynching in Virginia: Racial Terror and Its Legacy**

*Dr. Gianluca De Fazio, Associate Professor of Justice Studies, James Madison University*

Dr. De Fazio presented an overview of his newly published book, *Lynching in Virginia: Racial Terror and Its Legacy*, a volume of essays examining the more than 100 lynchings that took place in Virginia between 1866 and 1932. The volume covers the role of newspapers in either resisting or, alternatively, justifying lynching, the prevalence of lynching in Southwest Virginia, the state's response to lynching, and efforts to memorialize victims of lynching. Dr. De Fazio described several current efforts to bring the Commonwealth's history of lynching to light and remember its victims, including the recent inclusion of lynching in the Virginia Standards of Learning and installation of historical markers around the state.

### **Virginians for Reconciliation: Upcoming Events Commemorating Brown v. Board 70th Anniversary**

*Delegate McQuinn*

Delegate McQuinn invited members of the Commission to attend two events that will be held by Virginians for Reconciliation in September commemorating the 70th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. On September 13 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, panelists will discuss the societal impacts of the Brown decision from a theological and historical perspective. On September 14 at Virginia Union University, panelists will share their reflections on how the Brown decision shaped their lives, careers, and relationships.

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Delegate Delores L. McQuinn (chair), Delegate Betsy B. Carr, Delegate Mike A. Cherry, Delegate A.C. Cordoza, Reverend Ricardo Brown, Dr. Matthew S. Gibson

**Members Absent:** Senator Mamie E. Locke (vice-chair), Delegate Alex Q. Askew, Delegate Joshua G. Cole, Senator Adam P. Ebbin, Senator William M. Stanley, Jr., Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Delegate Alex Q. Askew, Dr. Karen Turner Ward, Tim Parrish, Kirk T. Schroder, J.D., Ph.D., Thomas Turner, Paula P. Williams, Tobi Wiseman

## 2024 Work Groups and Projects

The Commission's two work groups will meet prior to the next full meeting of the Commission. The Tribute to Yvonne Miller Work Group, chaired by Senator Mamie E. Locke, will meet virtually on September 4 to begin discussion and planning for a tribute to Senator Yvonne Miller to be placed in the Capitol. The History of Lynching in Virginia Work Group will meet in person on October 8 to resume its work of bringing awareness and recognition of the history of lynching in the Commonwealth.

## Other Business and Next Meeting

Rev. Ricardo Brown shared information on an event to be held in Richmond connected to the King Holiday in January 2025 and plans to share more details at the Commission's next meeting.

The next meeting of the full Commission is scheduled for November 20.

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For more information, see the [Commission's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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