

# **FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE REPORT: 2021-2023**

## **TASKFORCE ADVISORY BOARD**

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Chair (District 4)  
Marcus Coleman, Vice Chair (District 5)  
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Shanti Vissa (District 1)  
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## **TASK FORCE RESEARCHERS AND REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

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January 13, 2023

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## ABSTRACT

The Fulton County Reparations Task Force presents to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners an EOY (End of Year) summary report providing the results of research findings since being charged to perform an investigation following the adoption of Resolution No. 21-0277 on April 14, 2021. In addition, this report provides a summary of all work performed by the Task Force since the onset of their first official meeting on October 7, 2021, to January 2, 2022. Beyond the summary, this report is a proposal to perform two studies. The first study will expand upon the preliminary historical research performed thus far and allow the Task Force to make recommendations supported by quantitative and qualitative data. This empirical study would be followed by a feasibility study allowing Fulton County Board of Commissioners to learn the costs and benefits of the proposed recommendations made by the Task Force.

Empirical evidence retrieved from (1) Fulton County archival records, departments, and agencies, (2) local, state, and national archives and libraries, (3) newspapers, maps, tax digests, and city directories; (4) Georgia corporations' records (5) and personal family papers will allow for an exhaustive quantitative and qualitative study to be performed on the systemic impact of Slavery and Jim Crow on the lives of Blacks/African Americans in Fulton County from January 1, 1751, to present day. The results of the quantitative data and empirical research findings will grant the Task Force the opportunity to offer sagacious and purposeful recommendations to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners for approval.

The Fulton County Reparations Task Force members wish for this report to serve as the beginning of future studies that results in the granting of incessant restitution to the descendants of persons who endured enslavement and Jim Crow segregation in America and other subsequent periods, where opportunities to secure personal, political, and economic autonomy were denied due to racist practices. Being the first County Reparations Task Force established in the United States, the members of this advisory board hope their service, the empirical and feasibility studies, and their recommendations to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners serve as a blueprint for other county residents and Board of Commissioners throughout the US work in concert to correct past wrongs and to make African Americans whole.

## **Summary of Meetings: 2021-2022**

Authored by Commissioners Marvin Arrington, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution No. 21-0277 on April 14, 2021 to appoint members to:

Research and explore the feasibility of slavery reparations for Blacks/African12 Americans who live in Fulton County, Georgia; and WHEREAS, the Reparations Task Force serves as an advisory body to the County and is charged to investigate and provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding priorities, objectives, and policies which will support the revitalization, preservation, and stabilization of the Black/African American population in Fulton County in the form of reparations. (APPENDIX A)

The resolution was supported by four of seven Fulton County Commissioners.<sup>1</sup> The Task Force did not commence immediately. Instead, its first official meeting and the ratification of bylaw were held on October 7, 2021.<sup>2</sup> Each commissioner agreed to allow one member to represent their district. The inaugural appointees were Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado (District 4, Commissioner Natalie Hall), Marcus Coleman (District 5, Commissioner Marvin Arrington), Janay Wilburn (At-Large, Chairperson Rob Pitts), and Honorable Khalid Kamau (District 6, Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman). Three commissioners failed to nominate appointees (nominees for Districts 1 and 2 were appointed in August 2022). Each nominee was tasked with serving a two-year term with the Task Force sunseting on December 31, 2025. (See APPENDIX B).

Dr. Sims-Alvarado was elected as Chair, and Marcus Coleman as Vice Chair. At the request of the Task Force, commissioners voted to increase the number of appointees per district from 1 to 2 nominees for a total of 14 members. Jayne Wilborn resigned and was replaced by Tamika Jackson (At-Large, Chairperson Rob Pitts). Additional appointees were Shanti Vissa (District 1, Commissioner Liz Hausmann) and Elon Osby (District 2, Commissioner Bob Ellis).

The Task Force received administrative support from Fulton County Government: Fran Calhoun, Division Manager, Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, Department of External Affairs; Attorney Denva Stewart; and Jasmine Campbell, Legislative Assistant, External Affairs.

The Task Force recognized the importance of empirical research to support future recommendations to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Members requested Fulton County departments to lend their staff's expertise and experience to assist in performing the necessary research that could lead to the production of a report. John Wrights, Central Library

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<sup>1</sup> Fulton County Board of Commissioners, authored by Commissioners Abdur-Rahman, Arrington, and Hall. Item 24, 21-0277, April 14, 2021, Regular Meeting. See recorded meeting: <https://play.champds.com/fultoncoga/event/19/s/29180>. The vote comprised 4 Yeas and 2 Nays.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix A and "Fulton County Reparations Task Force." FOX 5 Atlanta. FOX 5 Atlanta, May 6, 2021. <https://www.fox5atlanta.com/video/930129>.

Special Collections Librarian, joined as Researcher at the recommendation of Fulton County Library System Executive Director Gayle Holloman and Central Library Administrator Cheryl Small. At the recommendation of Chairwoman Dr. Sims-Alvarado, Olivia Reneau, a Duke University Fellow, was assigned as Researcher.<sup>3</sup>

Members of the Task Force met during the first Thursday of each month from October 2021 to January 2023. During this period, Attorney Benjamin Crump and LA County Supervisor Jolly J. Mitchell offered support and examples of their efforts to secure restitution for African Americans. In addition, monthly reports and presentations of research were offered by John Wright and Olivia Reneau. Commissioners were invited to attend the meetings. Commissioner Marvin Arrington appeared on two occasions. All the meetings were made available for public access via Zoom, and before all meetings adjourned, time was reserved for public comments and questions.

In December 2022 and January 2023, the Task Force discussed preliminary recommendations that comprised granting restitution to descendants of those persons who were victimized of slavery, immanent domain, forced resettlement, convict labor camps, residential discrimination, and racial violence. Other recommendations discussed were the need for a research facility to conduct DNA testing and geological research for those whose ancestral history is lost due to the trans-Atlantic and domestic slave trade in the US. As the research grew for this study, access to Fulton County-owned primary documents and records became a concern for members of the Task Force. Therefore, the recommendation was made to support the establishment of a Special Collections, and Research Institute that could serve as a repository for county-owned records, primary documents, and secondary sources that assist can assist in not only producing a comprehensive study of the impact of slavery and Jim Crow on Fulton County residents, but it can also assist residents of performing genealogical research and making it possible for scholars to perform groundbreaking research on the history of Fulton County and its residents.

The volume of research performed by the Task Force researchers is impressive regardless of its limitations. A budget of \$0.00 was provided to perform the study. It was determined by the Task Force on January 4, 2023, that recommendations could be better supported and presented to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners if the current study is to continue and is sustained by a justified budget respective to work to be performed, by additional researchers, and having access to records housed by various Fulton County departments (i.e. vital, probate court, voter registration, county codes and ordinances, commissioners meetings, health, property taxes, county jail records) spanning from 1865 to 1980.

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<sup>3</sup> To view the list of members and Researcher, see: <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/commissioners/clerk-to-the-commission/boards-and-authorities/reparations-task-force#:~:text=Description%3A%20The%20Reparations%20Task%20Force,of%20the%20Black%2FAfrican%2DAmerican>

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

The focus of the researchers' interest was only on those areas that fall under the purview of Fulton County: registration and elections, arts and libraries, tax assessor, public health services, courts, and Fulton County jail.

The research covered the following historical periods:

Slavery in Georgia: (1751 to 1865)  
Slavery in DeKalb County (1822-1853) <sup>4</sup>  
Slavery in Fulton County (1853-1865)  
Reconstruction (1865-1877)  
Post Reconstruction (1877-1896)  
Jim Crow (1896 -1970)  
Urban Renewal: (1930 – 1980)

The researchers explored:

- The number of enslaved persons in Georgia and Fulton County
- the history of immanent domain and poor sanitation claims made against Blacks/African Americans that led to forced migration and displacement throughout Fulton County;
- lost records relevant to the victims of the 1906 Race Riot;
- origin of convict labor and labor camps in Fulton County;
- profiteers of convict labor and their contractual relationships with Fulton County Jail;
- evidence of numerous labor camps and convict goods and services provided by county inmates forced to perform hard labor throughout Fulton County;
- an +100-year history of bi-racial advocacy against convict labor and hardship.

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<sup>4</sup> Fulton County from created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1853. The land that became Fulton County was part of the western portion of DeKalb County, established in 1822.

## AREAS OF RESEARCH TO EXAMINE

1. Fulton County formed in 1853
2. Duties of County/Jurisdiction
3. Slavery
4. Public Works
5. Reconstruction
  - A. migration and settlement
  - B. housing/land ownership
  - C. voting and political leadership
  - D. Black communities
  - E. Black schools and colleges
  - F. public health
6. City Codes and County Ordinances during Reconstruction
7. Duties of County/ Jurisdiction during Reconstruction
8. Public Work and Infrastructure
9. Post-Reconstruction
  - A. Contribution of Taxpayers
  - B. Convict Labor
  - C. Voting
  - D. County Jails
  - E. Libraries
  - F. Public Health
  - G. Courts
  - H. Tax Assessor's Office
  - I. Record Keeping
10. Jim Crow
  - A. Contribution of Taxpayers to County
  - B. Convict Labor
  - C. Voting
  - D. County Jails
11. Urban Renewal (1930-1980)
  - A. Immanent Domain
  - B. Displacement
  - C. Housing Shortage
  - D. Environmental Justice

## CASE STUDY: 1

### **Bagley Park**

#### Summary of Finding

Bagley Park, also called Macedonia Park, is a formerly Black residential area in northern Fulton County. Named for a theorized refuge of the Forsyth County attempted racial genocide, the Black residential neighborhood developed with land bought from white landowner, John S. Owens. There was a local religious community with two churches, two restaurants, a grocer, a blacksmith, and at one point, a barber. Bagley Park was located between two all-white residential communities: Garden Hills and Peachtree Hills. It is from the former neighborhood that a clear animus for the residents of Macedonia Park may first be observed. In 1937, the Garden Hills Women's Club appeared at a Board of Commissioner's meeting, requesting "something being done about a negro section known as Macedonia Park". The commissioners, without presentation of any evidence, agreed to endorse a bill address the "Negro Section" in 1937 (BoC, February 10, 1937).

The Garden Hills Women's Club appeared before the BOC for the second time in 1938, requesting Bagley Park be condemned. This time, the delegation requested the neighborhood of Bagley Park be condemned. Citing claims of improperly disposed of garbage, outdoor toilets, and "temporary shack-like" homes, GH requests the BoC "condemn Bagley Park and purchase that parcel of land and the dwellings thereon for the purpose of slum clearance or for any other purpose as may be seen fit". Meanwhile, Bagley Park continued to grow. By 1940, the neighborhood sustained nearly 600 residents, with as many as 30% of the listed surnames belonging to owner-occupants. Sandborn maps of the neighborhood indicate lots and dwelling approximately equal in size to the adjacent, white neighborhood on Lookout Place.

Around this time, Board of Health meeting minutes indicate that the wells in Bagley Park test positive for contamination, likely of B. Coli. The occurrence both of contamination and pests was no strange occurrence in Buckhead, as the area often struggled with snakes, rats, and low-lying areas. The extent of the contamination is unknown, meaning we don't know if it posed any threat to other residential areas, but the Board of Health initiated the process to require that wells meet regulation requirements, privies be installed, and city water and sewerage be made available if advisable. There is noticeably no mention of the extension of county sewer services, despite existing county sewer services dating back to the 1930s.

In February of 1942, 150 GH residents signed a petition declaring their lack of desire for a park and swimming pool in their community. Another delegation of unknown size appeared in May, negating the views of the previous delegation and stating their desire for a park and park facilities in their community. Paired with the publication of a negative Grand Jury column on the BoC's curious park development practices, the issue of a park was not without disagreement.

The GHWC appeared for the 3rd time before the BOC in 1942, requesting the condemnation of Bagley Park. This "negro section", they alleged "is located on the headwaters of a stream that flows southwardly through Fulton County and having no sewerage it constitutes a health menace to the entire county". Despite the completion of an investigation 2 years prior, the BOC



recommends another investigation of the area's sanitary conditions by the Health Dept, Health Board, and Legal Dept

In 1944, the BoC passed the resolution sending Bagley Park to its doom. The Resolution earmarked \$50,000 for the acquisition of Bagley Park real estate for the creation of a "county park". The chains of title were subsequently established, and the first parcel (the parcel of John and Annie Usher, who were Black owner-occupants) was purchased after being assessed by three assessors in March of 1945. Eight other parcels were acquired this year, most of which for "ten dollars and other valuable considerations".

After multiple cash infusions from the BoC, the Bagley Park project approached nearly \$150,000 in costs, prior to the construction of the park. BoC minutes convey little of the fate of the displaced owners, but newspaper articles provide some insight into the fate of the renters. Journalistic coverage documents dozens of residents as displaced, some of whom experiencing homelessness. We know that many of these residents moved to Johnstown, another Black residential community, due to the appearance of white delegations decrying the influx of Black migrants from Bagley Park to the area.

Analysis of Board of Commissioner meeting minutes and property records demonstrate not only an explicit racial animus towards the Black residents of Bagley Park, but a doctrine that may be best termed as 'calculated neglect'. This phrase may be used to describe the Fulton County Board of Commissioners' divergence from precedent established with white residents around sewage, water, and constituent services, devaluing Bagley Park property and contributing to the conditions for which the residential area was supposedly condemned. Put plainly, the residents of Bagley Park were powerless to stop the destruction of familial homes by neglect that significantly preceded the vote to place a park in their backyards.

## METHODOLOGY

Research performed on neighborhood razing for public works utilizes Bagley Park as a primary case study. Material for research performed may be organized into two groups: records related to neighborhood razing and property records. Records related to neighborhood razing include Board of Commissioner meeting minutes (inclusive of inferior boards and departments like the Board of Health and Public Works Department) and newspaper clippings. Records related to neighborhood razing include deed books, property tax records, wills and probates, city directories, Census records, and plat maps.

The majority of resources retrieved for the study relate to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners' decision to condemn Bagley Park, the process of its subsequent condemnation, and the installation of Frankie Allen Turner Park in its place. Records range from approximately 1918 to 1960.

## Organizing Historical Data, The Volume of Retrieved Data Research Materials, & Summary of Research Materials

The process of organizing the research requires placing the materials in digital files and folders.

The main file heading is “Fulton County Properties.” It contains 341 files and 38 subfolders related to residential areas Fulton County possesses[d] for public use. Most files (314) pertain to Bagley/Macedonia Park. Additional folders include locations like Johnstontown, Plunket Town, and Piney Grove. The Bagley Park subfolder houses all sources related to Bagley Park, from primary sources to citations.

Records related to neighborhood razing include Board of Commissioner minutes that contain references to Bagley/Macedonia Park and its residents. Examples of relevant references include the multiple petitions by the Garden Hills Women’s Club for the neighborhood’s removal and offers from residents to sell property to remove the ‘Negro problem’. Records also include actions conducted by governance under the direct oversight of the Board of Commissioners. This includes the historic Fulton County sewer department, where constituent requests for Fulton County water and sewage connections were referred. These documents include both records related to Bagley Park and surrounding, white neighborhoods for comparative analysis.

Property records for Bagley Park are primarily plat maps and deeds. Nearly all property owners (and some renting tenants) have been identified for the period of examination via city directories and Census records. With this information, preliminary research yielded near complete chains of title for all parcels in Bagley Park. Additional property records include county tax maps, which indicate how much parcel owners paid in annual property taxes. Property tax records, particularly those Black property owners in good tax standing, aid the aforementioned argument of calculated neglect of tax-paying constituents by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

### Limitation and Strength of Research

Preliminary research on neighborhoods like Bagley Park is hindered along three major lines: source availability, financial resources, and labor. While Fulton County has a commendable collection of primary sources, some vital records are unaccounted for. One example of such is birth and death certificates from approximately 1905 to 1920. Overlapping government entities (Fulton County Board of Health, Fulton County Office of Vital Records, Georgia Department of Health, and the National Archives at Atlanta) deny housing such records in favor of one another, but many records remain unaccounted for. Some, like early Board of Health meeting minutes, may simply be gone forever. The present lack of financial resources allocated for the Task Force also means records that need to be purchased were excluded from preliminary findings. Finally, preliminary research was limited most principally by lack of labor.

Still, preliminary research demonstrates remarkable strengths. Fulton County has made remarkable efforts to preserve government material. Much of the primary source material, namely Board of Commissioner meeting records, is housed by the Fulton County government. As such, there is a wealth of material from which future research will draw. Additionally, the

research methodology employed for preliminary research on Bagley Park is highly replicable. The Fulton County Reparations Task Force has the unique opportunity to not only pioneer county-level methods for addressing historic injustices, but make methodological recommendations to other localities on addressing historic injustices.

Recommendation:

The author would recommend the expansion of the efforts to analyze Black neighborhood razing to areas beyond Bagley Park. Immediate recommendations include Johnstontown and Piney Grove, former historically Black residential areas within the locus of migration from Bagley Park. Additional recommendations include Armour Place, Savageville/Sandersville, Arden Road, Plunkett Town, Nicklebottom\*, and Dubals Alley.\* The author would also recommend the Reparations Task Force begin efforts to track familial outcomes for residents displaced by projects through the Fulton County Public Works Department. Present information is journalistic and/or anecdotal, and rigorous analysis may qualify or alter present claims on disparities displaced residents experienced post-forced migration.

\*Asterisks indicate locations that require initial verification of their existence as a majority-Black residential area before research may be conducted.

Sources:

Sources repositories include the Lewis R. Slaton Courthouse Deed Room (inclusive of both deeds and deed indexes), the Fulton County Public Library System's Special Collections at the downtown location, secondary sources (namely academic journals) available remotely through the Fulton County Public Library System and the Duke University lending library, the Atlanta History Center's government source repository and map collection, wills and probates available through Ancestry.com, newspaper clippings available through Newspapers.com, Board of Commissioner meeting minutes available through the Fulton County government's website, and primary source material housed at the National Archives in Atlanta.

## CASE STUDY: 2

### CONVICT LEASING AND LABOR CAMPS ESTABLISHED AND SUPERVISED BY FULTON COUNTY JAILS and CONTRACTORS: 1865 – 1980

#### Methodology

Material for research performed on convict leasing and labor camps established and supervised by Fulton County Jails and Contractors includes reports, studies, minutes, newspaper and periodical articles and maps. Newspaper articles comprise the majority of the resources located and dated from pre-Civil War to 2021. Most of the articles date from the 1870's to the 1920's. As of January 6, 2023, a total of 4,616 resources have been located for this case study. While the volume of research materials is impressive, there are a great number of materials that could be added to this study that has yet to be retrieved. This is just the preliminary phase of the research. There is much more to discover.

The majority of resources retrieved for the study relate to the use of convict labor following the Civil War and continuing into the 1940s. There are a small number of resources that relate to or refer to the use of slave labor prior to 1865. There are files that relate to both Convict Leasing, from the end of the Civil War until 1908, and the "chain gang" era, from 1908 through the 1940s.

#### Organizing Historical Data, The Volume of Retrieved Data Research Materials, & Summary of Research Materials

The process of organizing the research requires placing the materials in digital files and folders. The main file heading is "Convict Labor." It contains general articles and materials on convict labor and 163 additional files or folders, which are arranged alphabetically, except for files on Reparations, Eminent Domain, and the Georgia Convict Lease System. Many of folders contain additional subfolders. For example, the Railroads folder contains 64 subfolders.

Files relating to the convict leasing period (1865-1980) include materials relating to the corporate bodies that leased out convict laborers. For example: Grant, Alexander and Company and the three Georgia Penitentiary Companies. Additional folders relate to those who owned those companies, such as notable Atlantans: William Grant or former Governor Joseph E. Brown. Numerous folders also relate to the companies and individuals who bought convict leases to operate their mines, lumber companies, brick works, or railroads. There are extensive files on James W. English and the Chattahoochee Brick Company. James W. English came to dominate the leasing of convicts in Georgia, while his Chattahoochee Brick Company was one of the most notorious users/abusers of convict labor.

Files relating to the "chain gang" period are mostly contained in two folders; Fulton County and Fulton County Camps. Each folder has multiple subfolders. The Fulton County Camps folder contains 119 items, including 37 sub folders containing additional material on labor camps throughout Fulton County.

The Fulton County folder contains some materials relating to convict labor used that can be found on the Grand Jury subfolder.

The Fulton County folders also contain a subfolder on "African-American Communities" in the County. It documents through articles, Board of Commissioner's Minutes, and other documents that shed light on the treatment/mistreatment of Black communities such as Bagley Park, Johnstontown and Plunkett Town. Additional sub folders in the Fulton County Folder include

materials relating to the Fulton County Board of Health, Fulton County Alms Houses, and the Ku Klux Klan in Fulton County.

There are several subject-related or themed folders, including, “African-American Communities – Atlanta, African-American Communities – DeKalb County, Quarries, Railroads, and Cemeteries.” Finally, there is a subfolder, “City of Atlanta,” that relates to the use of Fulton County convicts on road and sewer projects in the City of Atlanta.

#### Limitation and Strength of Research

Need for additional researchers and access to Fulton County records.

## Slavery in Georgia and Fulton County

Slave labor in Georgia began in 1750. One year after Georgia become a Royal Colony in 1754, “slave laws” defined the status of free and enslaved, “Negroes, Indians, Mulatos or Mestizo” as follow:

All Negroes, Indians, Mulatos, or Mestizos (except those already free) who now are or shall hereafter be in the province and their issue or offspring born or to be born are hereby declared to be and remain for ever after absolute slaves.<sup>5</sup>

Fulton County was not adopted by the Georgia General Assembly until 1853. Its land derived from the western region of DeKalb County, established two decades earlier. DeKalb was founded as a county in 1822. The following year, the first recording of an enslaved person in the County was an African woman named Malinda, who was auctioned on the steps of the courthouse in March 1826 and reauctioned in September 1827. DeKalb County possessed a significant population of enslaved Africans. Four years after Malinda was resold on the Decatur Courthouse steps, nearly 1 in every 6 persons in DeKalb County were enslaved (1867 Africans compared to 9020 whites). The enslaved population continued to increase. By 1840, the US Census recorded 349 of 1406 (19%) households enslaved at least one person, and in 1850, the enslaved population grew to 33 percent.<sup>6</sup>

In 1860, 20 percent of Fulton County residents were enslaved. Comparatively, enslaved persons made up 37 percent of the state population and 13 percent of the entire US population. While 63 percent of the white population in Georgia did not own humans as property, the wealth of slaveholders doubled that of some northern states, such as New York and Pennsylvania. In 1860, the total value of enslaved persons in Georgia was \$400,000,000, accounting for 50% of the state's wealth. One in every three white male adults in Georgia were slave holders. In 1850 and 1860, 66 percent of state legislators were slaveowners, and 33 percent were planters. On the eve of the Civil War, 44% percent of the entire state population was enslaved.<sup>7</sup> In Fulton County, 20% of its population was in bondage.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> pdf4pro.com, "Slave Laws of Georgia, 1755-1860 - Georgia Archives," January 17, 2021, <https://pdf4pro.com/view/slave-laws-of-georgia-1755-1860-georgia-archives-6cea5b.html>.

<sup>6</sup> “Enslavement,” Decatur History, accessed January 12, 2023, <https://decaturhistory.com/enslavement/>.

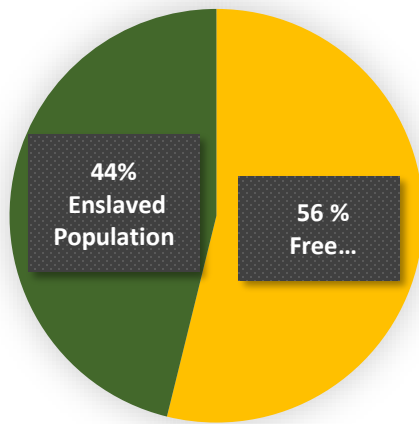
<sup>7</sup> “Slavery in Antebellum Georgia - New Georgia Encyclopedia,” accessed January 12, 2023, <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/slavery-in-antebellum-georgia/>.

<sup>8</sup> “War in Our Backyards,” Battle of Atlanta, accessed January 12, 2023, <https://battleofatlanta.ajc.com/part1.html>.

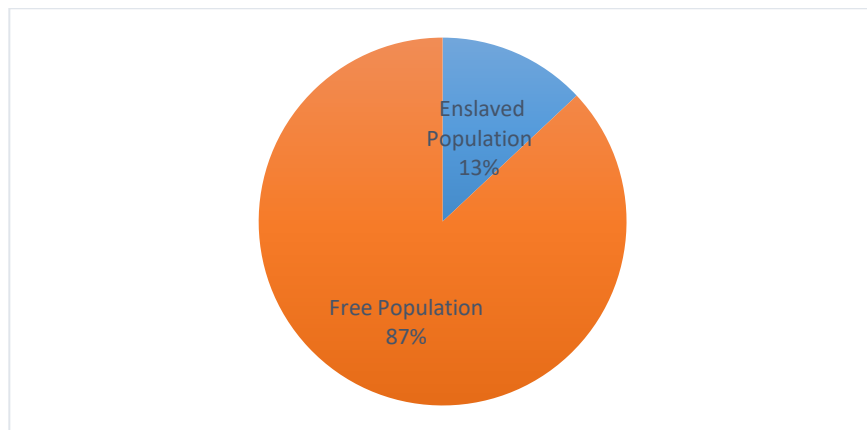
TABLE 1: Georgia Slave Population

Decade	Georgia Slave Population
1790	29,264
1800	59,699
1810	105,218
1820	149,656
1840	280,944
1860	462,197

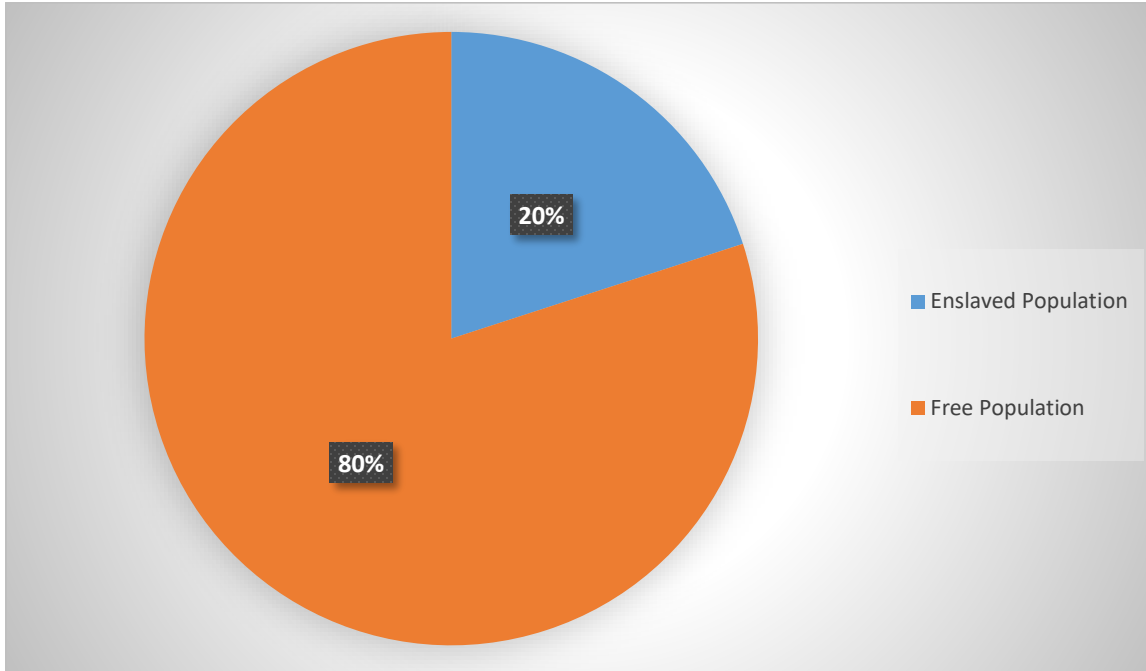
GRAPH 1: Enslaved Population in Georgia in 1860 and on the eve of Civil War (1861-1865)



GRAPH 2: GEORGIA ENSLAVED POPULATION COMPARED TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ENSLAVED POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1860



**GRAPH 2: Fulton County Population in 1860 and on the eve of the Civil War (1861-1865)**



**TABLE 2: VALUE OF ENSLAVED POPULATION IN GEORGIA AND PERCENTAGE OF GEORGIA’S TOTAL WEALTH BASED ON THE VALUE OF ENSLAVED PERSONS**

Year	Enslaved population in Georgia	Value of enslaved population	Percentage of Georgia’s total based on enslaved person’s wealth.
1860	462,197	\$400,000,000 <sup>9</sup>	45% <sup>10</sup>

**TABLE 3: AVERAGE VALUE OF ENSLAVED PERSONS IN 1860 COMPARED TO CURRENT US DOLLAR VALUE**

Year	The average value of an enslaved person purchased or sold in Georgia	Value in US Dollars in 2023
1860	\$865	\$30,192.67

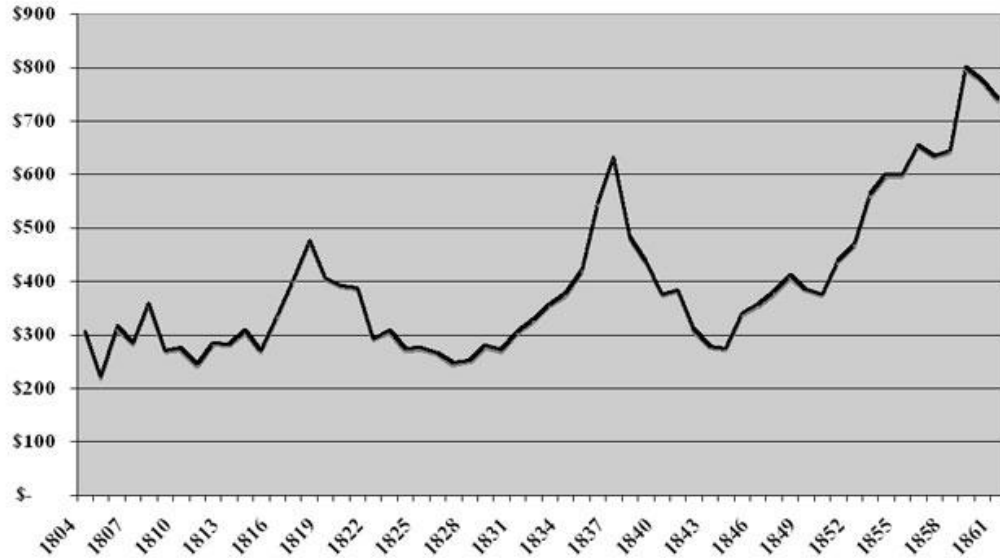
<sup>9</sup> “Slavery in Antebellum Georgia - New Georgia Encyclopedia,” accessed January 12, 2023, <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/slavery-in-antebellum-georgia/>.

<sup>10</sup> “Rich Man's War, Rich Man's Fight: Civil War and the ... - JSTOR,” accessed January 12, 2023, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2208723>.



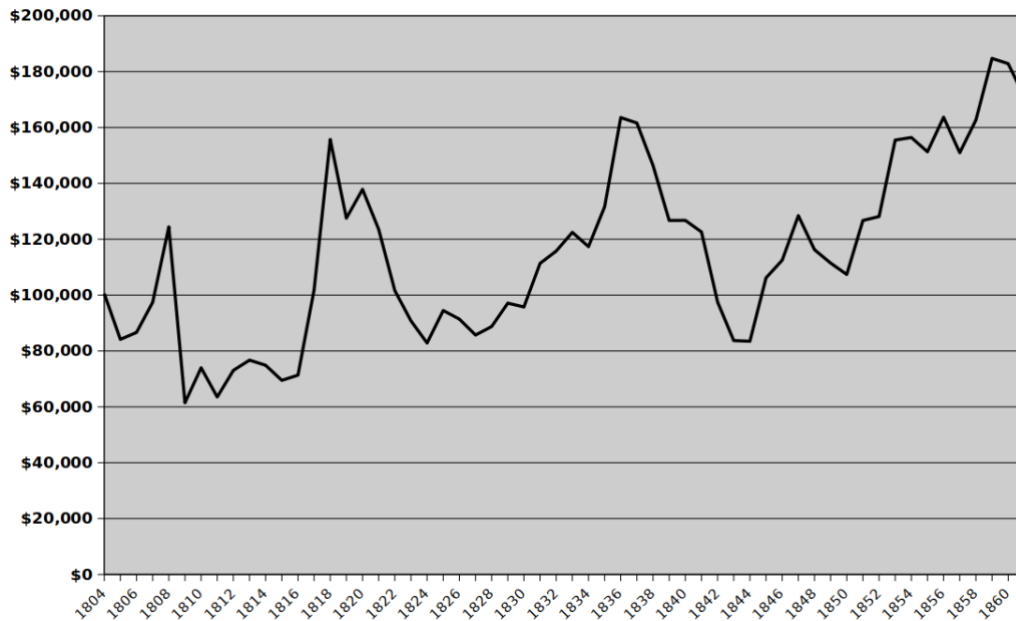
TABLE 4: AVERAGE PRICE OF AN ENSLAVED PERSON OVER TIME IN CURRENT DOLLARS AND LABOR INCOME VALUE OF ENSLAVING A PERSON IN 2020

**Average Price of an enslaved person Over Time**



Source: *Historical Statistics*, Table Bb212. Average Slave Price.

**Labor Income Value  
of enslaving a person in 2020 Prices**



Source: <https://www.measuringworth.com/slavery.php>

### Limitations and Strengths of Research

Fulton County Government and its Departments' records on the history of slavery are enormous, and it is the strength of the research to study slavery and its economic and social impact on the lives of African Americans and truthfully, the price of wage labor for all workers in Georgia. Its limitations comprise of two factors: the need for additional researchers and having access to the records owned by Fulton County.

The Task Force needs assistance in having more researchers perform a report based on qualitative and quantitative data. In addition, researchers need access to Fulton County-owned documents that have been challenging to access.

An additional strength is having access to other archives and repositories in Atlanta and throughout Georgia, that can expand the study of slavery and its impact in Fulton County. We cannot ignore the talent of scholars belonging to the Atlanta University Center, Robert Woodruff Library (AUC), Georgia State University, Emory University Archives, Atlanta History Center and University of Georgia Archives who can further contribute to the study.

**BUDGET RECOMMENDATION AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION:**

The Reparation Task Force recommends the Fulton County Board of Commissioners allow up to \$250,000 for administrative costs, hosting of community meetings to share research findings, performing a survey(s), and conducting two studies before making recommendations:

- empirical research supported by qualitative and quantitate data
- feasibility study

The Task Force is in preliminary conversations currently with the colleges and university belonging to the Atlanta University Center and other academic and research institutions throughout the metro-Atlanta area to assist in performing the empirical study and feasibility study.

3-5 Researchers:	up to \$ 110,000
Feasibility Study (RFP Required):	up to \$30,000
Public Meetings:	up to \$5,000
Administrative Fees	up to \$5,000

**TIMELINE TO PERFORM STUDY BEFORE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

April 2023 - October 2024

The completion of the reports could end earlier than the period stated.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Archives and Special Collections  
Emory University Archives  
Fulton County Library System  
Fulton County Vital Records  
Georgia State Archives  
Nineteenth Century Newspapers  
Robert National Archives  
Woodruff Library (AUC Archives)

### **Primary Sources:**

Sanborn Maps  
Atlanta City Directories  
Fulton County Tax Digest Records  
Fulton County Board of Commissioners Minutes  
Fulton County Board of Health Minutes  
Fulton County Deed Records and Indexes  
Fulton County Wills and Probate Records  
U.S. Census Records

### **Electronic Sources:**

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APPENDIX A

1 **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 21-0277 CREATING AND**  
2 **ESTABLISHING THE FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE TO**  
3 **MODIFY THE NUMBER OF APPOINTEES ALLOWED BY EACH MEMBER OF**  
4 **THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND TO DEFINE THE**  
5 **QUORUM NEEDED FOR THE REPARATIONS TASK FORCE TO TRANSACT**  
6 **BUSINESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, on April 14, 2021, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners  
9 approved a Resolution (Agenda Item #21-0277) creating and establishing the  
10 Fulton County Reparations Task Force (the "Reparations Task Force") to  
11 research and explore the feasibility of slavery reparations for Blacks/African-  
12 Americans who live in Fulton County, Georgia; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Reparations Task Force serves as an advisory body to  
14 the County and charged to investigate and provide recommendations to the  
15 Board of Commissioners regarding priorities, objectives, and policies which will  
16 support the revitalization, preservation, and stabilization of the Black/African-  
17 American population in Fulton County in the form of reparations; and

18 **WHEREAS**, under Resolution No. 21-0277, the Reparations Task Force  
19 shall have the following members: "Each Commissioner shall appoint one (1)  
20 member. Each member shall be a resident of Fulton County at the time of the  
21 appointment; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners desires more participation in the  
23 Reparations Task Force and believes that adding more members to the  
24 Reparations Task Force would help facilitate productive discussions on various  
25 viewpoints, augment its researching capabilities, to enhance that  
26 recommendations that the Reparations Task Force will provide to the Board of  
27 Commissioners; and

1           **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 21-0277 creating the Reparations Task Force  
2 is silent on what constitutes a quorum for the Reparations Task Force to transact  
3 business; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners seeks to clarify what constitutes  
5 a quorum for the Reparations Task Force to conduct business; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Fulton County Code of Laws (“FCC”) § 1-117 give the Board  
7 of Commissioners exclusive authority over the affairs of the County.

8           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of  
9 Commissioners of Fulton County hereby amends Resolution No. 21-0277  
10 establishing the Reparations Task Force to provide that each Commissioner shall  
11 appoint two (2) members, for a total of 14 members.

12           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Resolution No. 21-0277 is further  
13 amended to provide that a quorum for the purposes of the Reparations Task  
14 Force transacting business shall be a majority of members duly appointed by  
15 Commissioners without regard to any vacancies or non-appointments by any  
16 Commissioner.

17           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, except for amending the membership and  
18 quorum provisions of Resolution 21-0277 establishing the Reparations Task  
19 Force, all other provisions of Resolution 21-0277 shall remain unchanged.

20           **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective  
21 upon its adoption, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with  
22 the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

23           **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 3rd day of August, 2022.

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**FULTON COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS**

SPONSORED BY:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Esq.  
Commissioner, District 5

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tonya R. Grier  
Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Y. Soo Jo  
County Attorney

P:\CALegislation\BOC\Resolutions\2022 Resolutions\Arrington\8.3.22. Resolution Amending Reparations Task Force  
Number of Appointees and Defining Quorum.Arrington.doc



APPENDIX B

FULTON COUNTY REPARATIONS TASK FORCE

Board Established by: County

**Description:**

At it's August 3, 2022 Regular Meeting (Item #22-0544) the Fulton County Board of Commissioners amended resolution #21-0277 creating and modify the number of appointees allowed by each member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and to define the quorum needed for the reparations task force to transact business and other purposes. Each Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members for a total of 14 members.

At it's April 14, 2021 Regular Meeting item #21-2021, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners created and established the Fulton County Reparations Task Force to research the feasibility of slavery reparations for Blacks/African-Americans who live in Fulton County Georgia and for other purposes.

**Membership/Appointment:**

The Reparations Task Force shall have the following members: Each Commissioner shall appoint one (2) members, for a total of 14 members. Each member shall be a resident of Fulton County at the time of the appointment. A member shall serve for a two year term and subject to removal by the appointing Commissioner for cause. No member's term shall exceed that of the appointing Commissioner, but shall remain as a voting member until replaced or reappointed by the successive Commissioner.

**Term:**

Two year terms. The Reparations Task Force shall sunset on December 31, 2025 unless continued by action of the Board of Commissioners.

**Compensation:** NONE

**Stipend:**

**Meetings:**

**Contact(s):** Fran Calhoun, Manager, Department of External Affairs  
141 Pryor Street SW., 3rd Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-612-2201

	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>TERM ENDING</b>
1	Mr. Marcus Coleman	District 5 Nominated By: Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington	12/31/2023
2	The Honorable Khalid Kamau	District 6 Nominated By: Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman	12/31/2023
3	Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado	District 4 Nominated By: Commissioner Natalie Hall	12/31/2023
4	Shanti Oleti Vissa	District 1 Nominated By: Commissioner Liz Hausmann	12/31/2023
5	Ms. Janay Wilborn	District 7 Nominated By: Chairman Robert L. Pitts	12/31/2023