

TRUTH Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 · 6:04 PM – 7:00 PM

Government Office Building Council Chambers · 125 N. Division Street, Salisbury, MD

Committee Members Present

- Amber Green, Chair
- Kenisha Le’Cole, Vice Chair
- Kat Savoy (via Zoom)
- Boni Rychener
- Caraleigh Jones (arrived at 6:25 PM)

Absent:

- Joe Venosa

City Liaison: Caroline O’Hare

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM.
- Motion to open the meeting: Kenisha Le’Cole; Second: Boni Rychener. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve October meeting minutes: Kenisha Le’Cole; Second: Boni Rychener.
- All present voted “aye”. Motion passed.

3. Agenda Process Update (Chair’s Announcement)

Chair Amber Green clarified the following regarding future agendas:

- Reminder emails will include topics and general discussion items.
- Only requests submitted by members via reply email will be placed as individual agenda lines.
- General announcements from the Chair will not appear as dedicated agenda items.
- Public Forum remains open for community discussion due to the committee’s conversational format.

4. Public Forum Discussion: Submitted Letter from Member Joe Venosa

Chair Amber Green noted that absent member Joe Venosa submitted a written request for a statement to be added to public record regarding comments made on social media about the recent resignation of the former Salisbury City Council President.

- The letter was read aloud and is attached to these minutes as submitted.
- Chair confirmed the letter had not yet been forwarded to the City Liaison and requested it be added in full.

Committee Discussion Highlights:

- Kenisha Le’Cole: Encouraged unity, focus on the committee’s mission, and moving forward in love rather than division.
- Kat Savoy: Questioned the relevancy of the statement to TRUTH’s mission and whether inclusion in public record was appropriate without dialogue, as the author was absent.
- Amber Green:
 - Clarified that her personal post (referenced in the letter) did not name individual people, programs, or committee members, nor reference “Open Agenda.”
 - Asserted the post reflected concerns about historical patterns of surveillance toward Black leaders.
 - Noted the request appears to publicly implicate the committee without the opportunity for mutual dialogue.
 - Suggested that if the committee accepts Joe’s written statement into the minutes, her referenced post should also be included for transparency.
- Boni Rychener and Kat Savoy agreed the post should be included if it is being referenced in the letter.
- Discussion Regarding Former Councilwoman April Jackson:
 - Members expressed concern over how her name was cited in the letter without her presence or consent.
 - Chair emphasized accuracy and the danger of weaponizing Black leaders’ statements without context.

Motion Adopted:

Motion (presented verbally by Kat; refined by group):

To include into the public record, within these meeting minutes:

- *The letter submitted by TRUTH Committee Member Joe Venosa*
 - *The Facebook post by TRUTH Chair Amber Green referenced within the letter*
 - *With note that further discussion will take place at the December 2025 TRUTH Committee meeting, and public comment is invited. Mr. Venosa will be expected to participate in discussion.*
-
- **Motion First:** Kenisha Le’Cole
 - **Second:** Amber Green
 - Motion passed unanimously.

(The referenced Facebook post by Chair Amber Green is attached in full following these minutes.)

5. Appointment Recommendation: Mohammed Khan

- The Committee reviewed a Letter of Interest from Mohammed (Muhammad) Khan, submitted November 10, 2025, expressing interest in joining TRUTH.
- Members expressed support for his community behavioral health background and his engagement in local service.
- Motion to recommend his appointment to the TRUTH Committee:
 - First: Kenisha Le’Cole
 - Second: Boni Rychener
 - Vote: Unanimous approval.
- City Liaison Caroline O’Hare will forward the recommendation to staff for presentation to the appropriate City Council process (via Emily).

6. Upcoming Collaboration: National Day of Racial Healing

- Chair proposed partnering with HRAC (Human Rights Advisory Committee) on an event for the National Day of Racial Healing (January 21, 2026).
- HRAC members will be invited to TRUTH’s December meeting to collaboratively plan.

7. Announcements

- Kenisha Le’Cole: Coat drive continues in partnership with SPD and Crisfield Police. Donations accepted; she will handle collection and distribution.
- Boni: Has children’s clothing to donate.
- Kat: No announcements.
- YDAC Update (via Kenisha): Youth invited to participate in the City Christmas Parade, passing out candy for YDAC.

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Amber Green
- Second: Kenisha Le’Cole
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 17, 2025 · 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Government Office Building Council Chambers · 125 N. Division Street, Salisbury, MD

Attachments to the November 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- A – Public Letter Submitted by Member Joe Venosa
- B – Facebook Post by Chair Amber Green (as referenced in Letter)

Dear Fellow Members of the Salisbury TRUTH Committee,

On or about Tuesday November 11, one member of the TRUTH committee made a series of public social media comments regarding the recent resignation of the former SBY City Council President. These comments referred to a local public access TV program [REDACTED] -of which I have been affiliated with for the past 18 months. In those statements, this member alleged that the coverage and investigation that members of our team conducted was rooted in both personal racism and represented a modern-day version of “slave patrols”.

Such comments are ahistorical, flippant and are grounded in what I believe to be are “bad faith” arguments to help provide cover for someone who committed direct violations of our city laws and violated the trust of the community. They also detract from real, actual legitimate examples of personal and institutional racism that do exist in our city/community. I would like the committee to note that our own Commission’s city council representative April Jackson has stated in writing to myself and others that the former City Council President “committed fraud” and betrayed the very residents he swore to represent in District 2.

Moreover, it should be noted that public documents have recently come to light that indicate that the former city council president was aided in his violations of the city charter/code by at least one other current city council member who very well may have to resign in the very near future due to their complicity. While all individuals have a right to their opinion on the recent events, the individual actions -and the need for accountability- of our public officials remains an essential part of our civic life and for the preservation of local democracy.

As the father of a biracial child and the husband of someone from Eritrea who endured years of direct physical abuse in one of the most oppressive regimes in East Africa, I find such assertions of racially-based motivations beyond ridiculous though sadly not surprising.

In the future, I ask that if any members of this committee have such concerns about my or other members’ actions or motives that they bring those concerns out into a direct conversation and engage in the kind of dialogue that our vital committee was in-part created to help nurture.

Thanks for your time and consideration in putting this into the public record. I am looking forward to addressing this matter in person with anyone who wishes to do so during our December meeting.

Cordially,

Joe Venosa

Member, TRUTH Committee

Let's stop pretending this is harmless.

When white men start "investigating" Black public figures — digging through case searches, property records, or payrolls — it's not just curiosity. It's lineage.

It's the same bloodline as slave patrols, overseers, and Jim Crow committees. The same urge that said "we have the right to watch you, to question you, to define your worth."

Every time a Black person gains visibility, here comes a white man with a file folder, calling it "accountability."

But it's never that.

It's surveillance. It's social control. It's the old plantation logic — that Black freedom must always be monitored, and Black leadership must always be proven.

They've done it for centuries:

- When we ran for office, they checked our addresses.
- When we opened businesses, they checked our bank accounts.
- When we built movements, they checked our loyalty.

And every time, it wasn't about the facts. It was about fear — the fear of a Black person who doesn't need their permission to exist in power.

You can dress it up as "public record," but that's just modern-day slave papers.

And if you think that sounds extreme, remember: we've been documented, catalogued, and criminalized since the first ship docked.

So no, it's not okay. It's not "transparency." It's a continuation. Of a culture that still assumes Black people are guilty until proven worthy.

We shouldn't be comfortable with it. We shouldn't laugh it off or scroll past it. Because every time we stay silent, we tell the next generation of Black leaders that being watched is part of the job.

It's not.

It's trauma.

And we deserve to lead without the constant gaze of suspicion following us home.

I see what's happening.

I know where it comes from.

And I'm not having it — not this time, not ever again.

Let me be clear:

Even when a detail turns out to be factual — the method, the motive, and the message still matter.

Because Black people have been "found out" since the beginning.

Found out for reading.

Found out for owning land.

Found out for dreaming too loud.

“Found out” has always been the language of policing our presence.

So when a white man decides to go digging through records about a Black official — just because he can — that’s not community service. That’s cultural surveillance. It’s a modern-day overseer energy disguised as curiosity.

It’s the continuation of a system that says Black success must always be verified by white approval.

Yes, the man resigned. Yes, he moved on. But do you really think that means the way he was hunted is justified?

You can’t separate the outcome from the process — because the process still stinks of the old playbook:

“Catch the Negro in a lie.”

“Prove he’s not one of us.”

“Make sure the next one knows we’re watching.”

And that’s what I’m calling out.

Not the resignation.

Not the record.

But the ritual.

The ritual of scrutiny reserved for Black bodies in power.

The ritual of public humiliation disguised as transparency.

The ritual of taking joy in the downfall of a Black man while pretending it’s about “accountability.”

So no, I’m not taking it too far.

I’m taking it exactly where it needs to go — to the root.

Because if we keep excusing the method just because the information turned out to be “true,” we’re saying that the ends justify the same means that have always been used to break us.

And that’s how racism keeps evolving — polite, public, and perfectly documented.

Direct link to post: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BMWtQ9sXz/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Amber Green's Post



Amber Green

November 11 at 11:39 PM · 🌐



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