

TRUTH Committee Meeting Minutes DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Time: 6:02 – 6:53 PM

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

Committee Members Present:

- Amber Green, Chair
- Kenisha Le’Cole, Vice Chair
- Boni Rychener
- Caraleigh Jones (via Zoom later in the meeting)
- Joe Venosa
- Sophia Peters (HRAC representative and new TRUTH Committee member)

City Liaison: Caroline O’Hare

Absent:

- Kat Savoy

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting began with brief introductions, including Sophia Peters, a new committee member representing HRAC. Sophia expressed enthusiasm about joining the TRUTH Committee and emphasized her commitment to unity and resource facilitation.
- Attendees confirmed the next meeting (January 21, 2026) will begin at 6:00 PM, with early arrival welcomed.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The committee reviewed prior meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes with specific edits—namely, the removal of references to a submitted letter and a television program, out of concern they constituted free advertising.
- Motion to approve November meeting minutes with suggested edits: Boni Rychener; Second: Amber Green.

The motion passed with a 2-1 vote (For: Amber, Boni / Against: Kenisha / Abstained: Joe, Sophia). The group agreed the co-chair (Kenisha) would facilitate future discussions related to the matter to ensure neutrality.

3. Further discussion re: Joe Venosa Letter and Amber Green Social Media Post

- Amber acknowledged the suggestion from the Vice Chair to remove any perceived bias as the topic involves the Chair and a member, that Kenisha will facilitate this particular discussion.
- The committee addressed recent internal tensions stemming from a letter submitted by Joe and social media post from Amber. The Vice Chair emphasized the importance of setting personal issues aside in order to focus on the committee's mission: truth, racial unity, transformation, and healing.
- Members discussed whether the letter was relevant to TRUTH's mission and responsibilities, and reflected on how the committee originated from the work of the Lynching Memorial Task Force.

After much discussion, there was consensus to move forward with renewed clarity and respect, and to include a discussion on the origin and values of the TRUTH Committee in the January meeting agenda.

4. Day of Racial Healing Campaign Planning

- Amber proposed a week-long social media campaign for the National Day of Racial Healing on January 21, 2026, in collaboration with HRAC.
Ideas included:
 - Co-branded posts and graphics from committee chairs
 - Video messages to be recorded by Amber and Natalie (HRAC Chair) for PAC-14 if scheduling allows
 - Posting across City and committee platforms pending communications approval

5. ICE Law Enforcement & Immigration Support

- The committee discussed local concerns related to ICE detainments and agreed to:
- Invite community organizations engaged in immigration advocacy to present at future meetings. (Organizations mentioned included CASA, NAACP, and leadership within the Haitian Community Development Centers.)
- Host a Know Your Rights workshop tailored to the immigrant community
- Identify potential partners and presenters for January and February
- Distribute Red Cards – Joe has about 2,000 in Haitian Creole and Spanish.

6. City Council Liaison Discussion

- The absence of a City Council liaison was noted as a significant gap. Amber will draft formal communication to City Council President to request liaison reassignment. Caroline clarified that liaisons are volunteer-based roles and Amber stated that the original legislation may need review for stronger clarity.

7. Administrative Updates

- Amber inquired about missing meeting minutes on the Coty website from January through August 2025, and October 2025, and Amber will look through her files from previous meetings.
- Caroline will send approved November 2025 minutes to Emily for upload and follow up regarding prior missing records.
- Caroline will re-share Resolution No. 3147, the founding legislation of the TRUTH Committee, with all members. This will allow members to reference the original language and better ground upcoming January and February discussions focused on refining the committee's origin statement and core values.

8. Announcements

- MLK, Jr. Celebration will be held January 19, 2026; tickets are \$50. Contact Kenisha if you would like to attend.
- The next TRUTH Committee meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM, with agenda items to include:
 - Committee origin and shared values
 - Joint HRAC-TRUTH efforts
 - ICE/community policing issues

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Amber Green
- Second: Kenisha Le’Cole
- Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 21, 2026 · 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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Action Items

Task	Responsible Party	Deadline
Provide social media captions for Day of Racial Healing campaign	Kenisha & Sophia	Jan 5
Create and submit graphics for campaign	Amber	Upon receipt of captions
Send final campaign materials to Caroline & Victoria	Amber	Early Jan
Submit missing meeting minutes (Jan–Aug & Oct 2025)	Amber	ASAP
Upload approved Nov 2025 minutes	Caroline → Emily	ASAP
Follow up on other missing minutes with Emily	Caroline	ASAP
Draft formal request for City Council liaison	Amber	Before Jan meeting
Identify and invite community orgs to present on ICE/immigration	All Committee	Before Jan 21
Identify presenter for Know Your Rights workshop	All Committee	Before Jan 21