

MEETING MINUTES: TRUTH Committee DRAFT

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Government Office Building (GOB) Council Chambers

1. Attendance

Members Present:

- Amber Green, Chair
- Kat Savoy, Member
- Sophia Peters, Member
- Caroline O'Hare, City Liaison

Members Present via Zoom:

- Kenisha Le'Cole, Vice-Chair

Members Absent:

- Joe Venosa, Member
- Carileigh Jones, Member
- Melissa Holland, City Council Representative

2. Community Response to WBOC Article

- Amber reported on recent community unrest stemming from a WBOC article about Juneteenth events, where the comment section devolved into racist comments and hate speech.
- Amber noted she had personally commented on the post and questioned WBOC's social media policies, drawing on similar actions taken by NAACP chapters in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.
- Amber indicated she would document the situation by screenshotting comments and drawing connections, using her own time to address the issue.

3. Media Accountability and Community Statements

- The group discussed the importance of community members attending Truth Committee meetings to share their experiences.
- Amber proposed a joint statement highlighting media responsibility, drawing a connection between the historical lynching of Matthew Williams (in which the Daily Times played a role) and current media practices.
- The committee considered an open letter addressed to multiple stations, including WBOC, WMDT (WMET), and Coast TV — noting Coast TV is owned by the same company as WBOC.
- Sophia shared her experience managing social media comments and referenced WBOC's (WBT's) content policies on vulgar or offensive content.

4. Media Strategy and Community Outreach

- Sophia proposed sending the letter directly to general managers and news directors, rather than routing it through the mayor's office.
- The group discussed the impact of social media on criminal cases and youth, including examples of online behavior leading to legal consequences.
- Amber proposed developing relationships with local media and creating community outreach programs on social media usage, potentially including workshops with law enforcement and career development experts.
- The group also touched on historical context regarding outside influence on local issues and the committee's role in maintaining community standards.

5. Media Statement Committee Collaboration

- **Collaboration Method:** Caroline proposed collaborating on the media statement via a shared Google Doc, with each member contributing based on their expertise.
- **Deadline:** The group agreed to a deadline of end of June (June 30) for contributions.
- **Special Meeting:** Scheduled for July 1 (via Zoom) to finalize the statement.

6. Social Media Monitoring Statement

- Amber proposed inviting NAACP and Human Rights Advisory Committee leadership to sign on to the statement once finalized.
- Also discussed: potentially seeking support from the Eastern Shore Caucus of African American Leaders.
- Amber emphasized the importance of credible media outlets exercising due diligence given the current prevalence of independent news sources, and the need for community media literacy.

7. Truth Committee Planning Discussion

- Amber proposed featuring Dr. Charles Chavis as a speaker at the next in-person meeting, to present his research on the Matthew Williams lynching and its connections to current community development.
- Proposed using committee funding to support his appearance.
- Suggested investigating the destruction of Salisbury's Georgetown area as a related future topic.
- **Potential Community Events Discussed:**
 - A Juneteenth 5K walk
 - A YDAC community event planned for September 12
 - A possible Truth Committee film screening event, potentially at Shipley or a downtown location

8. Adjournment & Next Steps

Action Items:

- **Amber:** Once the statement is finalized, send it directly to general managers/news directors of local media outlets (WBOC, Coast TV, WMDT, etc.)
- **Amber:** After sending the statement, prepare a press release or report to the community and the Mayor's office about the committee's action.
- **Amber:** Invite NAACP and Human Rights Advisory Committee leadership to sign on to the statement once completed.
- **Amber:** Advocate for and arrange funding for Dr. Charles Chavis to be a featured speaker at the next in-person meeting.
- **Amber:** Send an email regarding the invitation to provide an update at the Chipman board meeting.
- **Sophia:** Create a Google Doc for the joint statement to local media about social media monitoring and share it with the committee.

Next Meeting:

- **Date:** Wednesday, July 1, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 pm
- **Location:** Via Zoom