GULLAH/GEECHEE

CULTURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

JUNE 2, 2009, 6:30 P.M.

THE RALPH MARK GILBERT CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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2	MR. TOURE: Good evening.
3	THE AUDIENCE: Good evening.
4	MR. TOURE: Normally, I'll tell you, and
5	because I'm in an official capacity, I will not
6	behave the way I normally behave, because
7	especially those of you who are from this area
8	along Coastal Georgia, you know that when I say
9	good evening or good morning or good afternoon,
10	I expect a louder response when we gather.
11	Again, I'm not in the capacity of Jamal
12	Toure, but I'm here on behalf of the
13	Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
14	Commission.
15	As one of the commissioners, and I would
16	like to do this right now because this is the
17	public input meeting, but I think that those of
18	you who are here, you need to see who the
19	commissioners are for the State of Georgia, but
20	also we have the chairman for the entire
21	commission, which covers from North Carolina,
22	Southeastern North Carolina to Northeastern
23	Florida.
24	And first I'll start off in front, we have

And first I'll start off in front, we have Chairman Emory Campbell from Hilton Head, South

Carolina. In addition we have up front also on
Hilton Head, but also tied to Sapelo Island,
Commissioner Charles Hall.

5 And in our wonderful City of Savannah, the Mother City of Georgia, we have Commissioner 6 7 Deborah Mack. And a lot of the work with 8 regards to this public input meeting is tied to 9 Commissioner Mack. And in the back we have 10 Jeanne Cyriague, Commissioner Jeanne Cyriague, 11 who many people know from her preservation work 12 through the State of Georgia, with the State of 13 Georgia here in this area and throughout the 14 entire state, Commissioner Jeanne Cyriaque.

And I am Jamal Toure, and I'm one of the commissioners also. Some may say fortunately or unfortunately, but we are glad to be here.

18 And this is the first public meeting in 19 the State of Georgia regarding the Heritage 20 Commission, and just like with the information 21 that y'all have before you, we have some comment cards that we want you to make 22 23 comments, but we also want to have your input 24 in this session because it's being videoed. 25 We have a videographer and also a

stenographer. This is being recorded because this is a part of the process of us getting a management plan together for our Heritage Corridor.

Just to give you some background, this is the first African Senate or some people say African American Senate heritage area in the entire United States.

10 There are 54 heritage areas and only, the 11 only African Senate heritage area is located 12 here in Coastal Georgia, Coastal South 13 Carolina, and Coastal Florida and Coastal North 14 Carolina.

15 That is a testimony to not us but to the 16 legacy of our ancestors. And with that, we're 17 now going to move over into the realm of 18 invocation, because that's also a testimony to 19 our ancestors and the tradition of our 20 ancestors.

We have Reverend Clarence Williams, who is going to give the invocation, from First Tabernacle Baptist Church, which was one of the early partners doing this special resource study that was done here in Savannah and

2 throughout the entire area. 3 And Reverend Clarence Williams had a 4 baptism that he has to engage in. We want him 5 to do his job, and also he's from this 6 community, from here, but he sent over Brother 7 Kenneth Miller from First Tabernacle Baptist 8 church, which is located right on Allen Street 9 one block away. 10 So Brother Miller, you come forward and 11 give us the word; again, the legacy of our 12 ancestors and our Creator. Thank you. 13 REVEREND MILLER: Good evening. 14 THE AUDIENCE: Good evening. 15 REVEREND MILLER: Let us pray because we 16 have so much to be thankful for. 17 (PRAYER) 18 Thank you, Brother Miller. MR. TOURE: 19 We're now going to twist the program and tweak 20 it a little bit, because we have our 21 Mayor-Pro-Tem here, Mayor-Pro-Tem Edna Jackson. 22 Normally, we would have a welcome from the 23 owner and the operator of this edifice, but we 24 want to tweak it a little bit and have our 25 Mayor-Pro-Tem to come, and that's Mayor-Pro-Tem

2 Edna Jackson from the City of Savannah. 3 Because this gathering is for you, we hear 4 your voices, and what is more fitting than for us to have the leader of our voices, 5 6 Mayor-Pro-tem Edna Jackson. 7 MAYOR-PRO-TEM JACKSON: I always call him 8 one of my children from Savannah State 9 University, and I'm just so proud of him. You 10 know, in a word, he has found his niche. And 11 he's always been that kind of person that would 12 have the stick-to-it-ness to make sure 13 everything is very successful. 14 But this evening, I'm going to be reading 15 on behalf of our illustrious mayor, Dr. Otis 16 Johnson, and the members of city council. 17 Dr. Johnson is out of the city this 18 evening, and that is why he's not here. But 19 you know, this is a great day in Savannah, 20 because this is on the first day, and Savannah 21 is known for many firsts, and this also brings 22 a first. 23 And I'm hoping that all of you will be a 24 part of what will come out of all of the

25 planning that will bring even more people to

our city, but more so that it tell the history,
the history of the people, the history not only
African Americans, but everyone who worked to
make this corridor what it is today.

The South is coming alive. People want to come and see what happened. But we're the ones that have to make sure that the real story is being told, and that is what you're going to help to do that.

It is just my pleasure again to say welcome to the Hostess City of the South. And in any way that the city can partner with this, if you know our mayor, you know this is what he wants to be a part of.

And I'm sure he's thinking, Lord, I wish I could there. Lord, I wish could be there. But he will give his all, along with members of city council and our staff.

If you don't ask, you don't receive. And all we say is that you ask and let us know how you want us to be a part of what is happening here.

Again congratulations. Enjoy your stay in our city. Enjoy your stay in the Hostess City

of the South, Savannah, Georgia. Thank you. 2 Ι have to leave and go to another -- this will be 3 4 my this third evening as Mayor-Pro-Tem. 5 There are 44 neighborhood associations, and I can tell I can't make them all every time 6 7 they meet, but at certain times I do have to 8 make sure that I'm there to hear the concerns 9 of the community, in order for us to have 10 quality of life positive here in this 11 community. 12 So if you will excuse me, I know that 13 you're going to enjoy it. 14 MR. TOURE: Again, Mayor-Pro-Tem Edna 15 Jackson, one of the voices in the City of 16 Savannah. And now this structure is the Ralph 17 Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum Annex. 18 This is a new structure and we're so happy 19 to be in this facility. And every weekend you 20 can see something happening, going on, and a 21 lot of it is tied to the drive and vision of 22 the gentleman who is the Chairman of the Ralph 23 Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum Board, and 24 that's Dr. William -- excuse me, Dr. Billy 25 Jamerson.

2 And we're going to ask him to come forward 3 to say a few words. Then we'll go to our Chairman of the Board who made it possible for 4 5 this structure to be here. 6 DR. JAMERSON: On behalf of the Board of 7 Directors of the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil 8 Rights Museum, I'd like to welcome each and 9 everyone of you here today. 10 I'm very, very thrilled to be working 11 with this organization because your mission is 12 powerful. To be able to grab that part of our 13 history before it just washes away in the ocean 14 like the sands is incredible. 15 So I encourage you to embrace it, to go 16 out and get others to bring that message 17 forward, because we need to tell our story. 18 If we don't tell our story, others may 19 tell it a different way. So it is important 20 that we grasp that before it goes away. So I 21 encourage you to do continue that, and I would 22 be remiss if didn't say thank you to Chairman 23 Liakakis for all you have done over the years 24 to support this organization. 25 This building was built with SPLOSH money

through the county and the city working
together to get the votes necessary so the
citizens can pay one extra cent on every dollar
that they spend. So that money came to support
activities like this.

7 And had it not been for Chairman Liakakis, 8 we wouldn't be here. Since that time, the 9 county has stepped up to the plate on numerous 10 occasions to help us be able to see that ball, 11 because sometimes it comes fast, sometimes it 12 comes in curves, sometimes it's a slider, 13 sometimes it's a grounder. It just comes in 14 all kinds of different ways.

And when we have people like Chairman Liakakis in the background helping us, like Edna Jackson, Otis Johnson and others as well, we can't help but succeed. So thank you very much, and I hope you all have a wonderful meeting tonight.

MR. TOURE: Again, thank you Dr. Jamerson. The next person again, as Dr. Jamerson said, it would not have been possible without the assistance or basically the effort of the county, and he's the Chairman of the Board of

2 commissioners, but he's full of jokes. 3 And I'm going to now have our Chairman, Chairman Pete Liakakis, who has always been 4 5 involved with regards to cultural, going back 6 into the '90s. 7 And Chairman Liakakis, what I discovered 8 on Friday, is filled with jokes. He thinks 9 he's another Rickie Smiley. But again, I'm a 10 little upset with him, but Chairman Liakakis 11 would you come forward, please. 12 CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Yeah, I'm glad and 13 happy and honored to be here on behalf of the 14 Chatham County Commission. 15 The reason why Jamal is a little upset, I 16 was calling him up on the phone. I needed to 17 ask him some questions, but I changed my voice 18 a little bit. And I called him up and I said 19 look, you better come on down. You're four 20 months behind on that truck payment. 21 He said what truck, and so I had him going 22 for a long time over there, you know, about a truck that never existed on that. So that's 23 24 why he said he's a little upset. 25 But I'm glad to be here today on behalf of

the county, because this is a really important endeavor that we have right here, to have the Gullah/Geechee people to be recognized and come in.

6 And the Gullah/Geechee Corridor was set up 7 by the US Congress, so this isn't something --8 just a group of people coming together -- which 9 is important, but because we need everybody to 10 participate if it's going to be successful, 11 but they realize the history and the culture 12 and the religious and the recreation, and of 13 course the natural area.

14 And they have got three maps over there 15 that outline the corridor. And of course, 16 there's North Carolina to the north, and South 17 Carolina and Georgia. And there are 23, the 18 areas in the State of Georgia, and it lists 19 them whether they're churches or recreational 20 area or what have you. So if you haven't seen 21 that, I think you ought to look at that.

We can see, you know, what they say if you don't know anything about history, you lose a lot of things, because when you find out about your history, then you know about things in the

2 future.

We can never forget what has happened in the past and go on to do things to remember and make things better for us, because we learned about things that happened in the past.

7 And of course, the Gullah/Geechee people 8 that lived in that area when it all started, 9 you know, it was a huge amount of people that 10 were involved in that all the way from South 11 Georgia up into part of North Carolina, and it 12 was culture, of course.

13 And that was really important like other 14 cultures that we have. So working together 15 now, and of course Jamal has worked in many 16 great things in our community. He has brought 17 out a lot of our history. I've attended a 18 number of things that he has done, and I'm glad 19 that he and the commissioner that all of you 20 are on, you know, putting this together and 21 getting people involved so that we can get 22 resources into it, and do the things that bring 23 a lot of the areas that has that significance 24 for the Gullah/Geechee matter.

25 And then we can see it flourishing again,

and that's really important we do those things.
So I want you to know whatever we can do, and
I'm glad we were able to participate and get
this building done for the Mark Gilbert Civil
Rights Museum, because as some of you know, the
building next door was not conducive to have a
lot of meetings and all.

Now that you've got this facility, under
Dr. Jamerson's leadership, it's helped out a
tremendous amount -- got new board of director
members, and we can see the whole thing turning
around to be very positive in our community.

But I thank each and everyone of you for coming. If I can help, just pick up the phone and call me. I'll participate as much as I can.

But thank you very much, because this is great. And let me just tell you Edna and I go to a lot of things together, the mayor and all, but we've got a great relationship with the City of Savannah working in partnership with a team to get a lot things done for citizens, and that's really important.

25 So all of us working together, because

2 we're all brothers and sisters, and if we 3 understand that and show that we love one 4 another, we can change things.

5 And we should never ever give up on 6 anything that we do. Thank you, and may you 7 all be blessed.

8 MR. TOURE: I have to say this on behalf 9 of Chairman Liakakis that he is here when he 10 should be at another board meeting for another 11 organization, but for this body that's why he's 12 here, because it is a partnership with the 13 heritage corridor, along with the City of 14 Savannah, and also the County of Chatham.

But one of the things that we've dealt with, that we've dealt with that, the state level, the state are partners. We're now moving over into the federal side.

And that's where we're going to have greetings and welcome from Congressman John Barrow's office, and then we'll go to the National Park Service, because now there is a federal phase to this, which that's what we're under.

25 We are part of the federal aspect. So

we're going to have Ms. Vernisha Davis from
Congressman John Barrow's office to come
forward. Thank you.

5 MS. DAVIS: Hi, good evening everyone. My 6 name is Vernisha Davis. I'm from the office of 7 Congressman John Barrow. Unfortunately, 8 Congressman Barrow cannot make it today due to 9 votes in Washington, but I'm glad to be here, 10 to be involved in the meeting, and take back 11 notes to the office to Congressman Barrow on 12 the Gullah/Geechee history and culture, and 13 your wants and needs for the new corridor. 14 Thank you.

MR. TOURE: Thank you again, because it was Congressman James Clyburn's vision that brought about this heritage corridor, along with some other individuals such as Michael Allen from the National Park Service, Queen Quet, and our Chairman Emory Campbell that they had the vision.

They had the discussion, and it brought about to show you what we can when we come together and work and we're diligent. And so that's the role of the National Park Service

that they will be diligent with regards to in
also sharing the history.

And so Tammy Risier is from Ft. Pulaski, will come forward, and after that then it's your turn. It's the people, because we want to hear from you what are the accesses, what's your vision. So again Tammy Risier is from the National Park Service.

MS. RISIER: Hello, everyone. My name is Tammy Risier. I am the Administrative Officer, Ft. Pulaski. I'm not an interpretive ranger, so don't expect an educational program here tonight, but Michael Allen did say he was going to critique me, so give me a plug.

16 Ft. Pulaski has been involved with the 17 Gullah/Geechee Corridor since 2000. It's our 18 mission and our hope to continue this 19 management process, so that FOP staff can 20 continue to support the educational and 21 interpretive programs that we give to our 22 visitors that visit Savannah, Tybee Island.

We want to interpret and enhance in them the passion that so many of the Ft. Pulaski staff have and that's the passion of history.

2 And the Gullah/Geechee is so much a part 3 of that we want interpret the education, the 4 religion, the language, and most of all the 5 food, which I would like to get into more. 6 Through this partnership, we will continue 7 and we look forward in the endeavor to continue 8 these programs to educate our public and 9 visitors that visit -- that visit Ft. Pulaski. 10 And on behalf of Randy Western, who is our 11 superintendent who couldn't be here tonight. 12 He sends his regrets. He had a prior family 13 commitment. He wanted me to let you guys know 14 of his passion to continue this, and to make 15 sure that during his term as superintendent of 16 Ft. Pulaski that the education and interpretive 17 programs are going to continue. 18 And he has set the bar high for us. So I 19 want you guys to know that our mark is set a

little bit higher to get out of the office and
go down educate myself, as well as others,
within our community. Thank you.

23 MR. TOURE: Can you say that I'm human and 24 that I make mistakes, because I'm human, and 25 now the floor should be turned over to you, but

2 something happened. Something just occurred 3 and I have to tweak. Just give me just a 4 minute and-a-half just to tweak it, because one 5 of our partners to walk in, because the second 6 special resource study meeting was held in 7 Savannah at First African can Baptist Church. The first special resource study meeting was 8 9 held at First Bryan Baptist Church, and 10 Reverend Ellis was invited. He would have been 11 here, but Reverend Ellis has just come home 12 from the hospital.

But Reverend Thurman Tillman from First African Baptist Church has just walked in. We'll just ask Reverend Tillman just to come up, just give us a greeting, just a word -- he just walked through the door. Then it's your turn. You will have -- I promise you as my people say, I swear by God.

20 REVEREND TILLMAN: Greetings and 21 salutations. It's good to be here. Listen, 22 all I want to say to you is welcome on behalf 23 of the historic First African Baptist Church, 24 we're glad to see you.

25 We're just elated -- elated on the things

that God is continuing to do, and at First African Baptist Church we're always led to be a part of such a powerful movement, and we give God all the praise and honor. So I know you're ready for your opportunity to share. I'm not going to stand in the middle of that. Just God bless you.

9 MR. TOURE: And we have the utmost respect 10 for Reverend Tillman, because he's out there 11 doing the work and First African is doing the 12 work. That's why it is so fitting that they 13 too are partners in this.

14 Now, it's your floor. You have the 15 opportunity. Commissioner Mack -- one thing I 16 have to say to you, comment cards, sign in. 17 Those who came through the back, make sure you 18 please sign up in front, and comment cards 19 spread the word also. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MACK: Again, on behalf of 21 all of us Georgia commissioners, commission 22 members, thank you for coming.

What we're going to do now is ask for your input and your comments and your ideas. We have two commissioners who have little

2 lavaliere mics.

And if you raise your hand, they will come to you. We're asking you basically tonight two essential questions.

6 First, we ask -- we invite you to comment 7 on whatever you think is very important, but 8 there are two specific things we'd like to 9 know.

10 Number one; what are the resources, the 11 places of memory, the events, the people who 12 need to be documented well who need to be a 13 part of this heritage corridor that you think 14 are really important for the past, but also for 15 the future in interpreting the Gullah/Geechee 16 heritage that we have.

But secondly also, what did this commission do for you specifically, what do you need from this commission. So if you can respond to those two questions, either of those questions, or if there's anything you really want to see on the record, please let us know.

We're going to ask you to try to keep your remarks a little focused, so that we can get everyone's input, but we can always come

2 back to you as well.

3 So again, if you just flagged a hand, 4 et cetera, someone will come to you with a mic. 5 We will ask you to say your name. We may ask 6 you to spell your name as well, because we want 7 to be sure that we acknowledge your presence 8 and your contribution appropriately for the 9 permanent record.

10 CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Has there any monies 11 been appropriated from any state or federal 12 agency to help out in this for the -- for this 13 task, you know, that everybody's going put 14 things together, and of course you'll have a lot of volunteers and all, but that money 15 16 whether you're going to have fundraisers, or 17 are we going to be able to put something 18 together so that we can get our house members 19 and our senate members to see about putting 20 funding into this organization?

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: I'll try to answer that for you, Commissioner. We are -- we are a commission that got authorized in 2006, along with the authorization was \$10,000,000, a \$1,000,000 a year.

The fact is it hasn't been appropriated. So far we've gotten \$150,000 each year. We've been in this two years. Most of that money has gone toward a contract with the services center to begin planning the corridor, planning how we're going to preserve the corridor.

8 Aside from that, we have to match those 9 funds with either in kind or cash. And so 10 we're in the process, all of us, 15 of us that 11 volunteered, some of us have donated our time.

Instead of taking the mileage, we've given
it back. So that's how we've been raising the
match.

Once we get enough money, first of all, we have to complete the management plan. After the management plan, we're hoping to have enough money to grant moneys to organizations that need -- need funds to do programs, preserve things, preserve churches, preserve recreational centers that are historic.

22 Anything that's historic, we want to 23 preserve, as well as educational programs. We 24 hope we'll get into that position and to grant 25 funds out.

Right now we're just now in the planning,
and we don't have enough money for that.
Hopefully, this year's appropriation will be
more so that we can get planning and get that
completed quickly.

MS. GUNN: Thank you. Good evening.
Well, you know, I am saltwater Geechee woman,
so I will say hi Geechee. I'm Pat Gunn. I'm
the founder and director of the Geechee
Institute. It's been around for about 12 years
up and down the coast of Georgia.

13 My concern right now, I know it's a long 14 journey, and we as a non-profit organization, 15 have been very patient. We understand the 16 process that you're going through in terms of 17 commissioners, but one of our concerns right 18 now is while you're doing the planning, I 19 understand it's going to take several years to 20 get the planning in order, but would you 21 support us in terms of continuing to encourage 22 the local government, county, city, 23 municipalities to help us continue to protect 24 what we're losing everyday.

Let me give you an example. If you stand

on River Street in Savannah, if you are
visiting and I encourage you to go down there
and look across the way, you'll see to the left
of you the Trade Center and the Westin Hotel,
and to the right of the Westin Hotel is trees,
shrubbery, earth.

8 The developers are very interested in that 9 land to the right of the Westin, and that land 10 has cemeteries, three in fact, of 11 Gullah/Geechee people.

12 We go and we work, we talk with The 13 Heritage Foundation as well as others, but it 14 sure would be a big impact if we could have our 15 commissioners to stand with us through letters 16 of support, through John Barrow's office and 17 others that during this planning that we don't 18 miss the mark, please, of continuing to 19 preserve what we're losing everyday.

We as Gullah/Geechee always say when an elder dies we lose an entire library. When we keep losing our landmarks, cemeteries, developers knocking on our doors and developers that are building on top of cemeteries, we must make sure that it doesn't happen anymore.

Of course, I could go on and on and give you examples of Strathehall in Richmond Hill, where they came in in the 1940s and '50s, and they did not transfer those bodies, those cemetery plots. They just built over them, and they wonder, you know, how come it keep flooding and things.

9 It keeps flooding because those are our 10 ancestors. And so while you're doing the 11 planning, please don't forget when we call you 12 to lend a hand through the power of the pen, 13 through the power of a call to help us to 14 preserve while you're planning, so that when 15 the plan is made there will be someone at the 16 table to eat the dinner. Thank you.

MR. CAREY: Good evening. I'm Daniel Carey with the Historic Savannah Foundation, and if I may address the previous comment, we would be happy to learn more about that.

I'm the new director, so I have a lot to learn, but I'd like to learn more about it. We're very much in the business of trying to protect and preserve Savannah's culture and history so if we can be of assistance with

2 that, we'd be happy to do that. 3 I also want to say hello to Emory, whom 4 I've not seen since not seen since 1991. Т 5 have to put this in. Emory and I started out 6 with Susan Kidd in the Southern Office of the 7 National Trust up in Charleston. It's really 8 good to see you again. 9 When I looked at the list of, I think, 10 potential topic developments for the 11 Gullah/Geechee Corridor, I see these are all 12 very good. 13 What I would like to add or at least have 14 considered would be the language, and the food 15 ways, the music. These are the cultural maybe 16 intangible elements that are often overlooked, 17 because we tend to put our arms around the 18 things we can get our arms around like 19 buildings and cemeteries and things like that. 20 I think that the food ways again, the 21 lanquage. There have been some efforts in

22 that.
23 I know that's not been overlooked, but I

would maybe like to see those sorts of things enumerated in a list of topics.

2 MS. MTENDAJI: Good evening. My name is 3 Imani Mtendaji, and I'm a storyteller, 4 folklorist, cultural educator, and one of the 5 things I wanted to ask about was in terms of 6 the allocation of funding, and was concerned if 7 any of it will go into the educational system. I know here in Savannah I work in the 8 9 school system, and I don't see enough 10 interaction between, you know, the schools, you know, and the historic district. 11 12 There's not enough arts in the schools, 13 where we're grooming youngsters, you know, into 14 this whole culture system. So if there's going 15 to be moneys that -- actually the schools are 16 always saying that they don't have money to 17 support this, or maybe moneys need to be 18 poured in from someplace else. 19 MR. WEST: Good evening everyone. I'm

20 going to piggyback on the sister. I'm 21 name is Eliziah West, Jr. I'm Assistant 22 Principal at Johnson High School.

I bring information or I'm asking information from the educational side also, because we -- we do need to involve the

educational system here locally in the plan.
We need to bring them to the table,
because while they say there's not any money
there, there is some money there.

6 How little or whatever we want to say, 7 there's always some money there, and there 8 needs to be a way we can sit to the table and 9 plan how we can direct some of those moneys 10 toward educating our kids here with the 11 Gullah/Geechee culture.

When you mentioned about the cemeteries earlier, my father, my family, we're from the Bellinger Hill or Bellinger Hill as we say over there, okay, so I have roots deeply imbedded over there.

17 So I know what it is to come and try to 18 get the land and develop it and lose what's 19 there. So we definitely need to be careful 20 with that.

We're from an educational background. We need to try and get with our local school board superintendent, what have you. We need to bring them to the table when we start planning so that whatever money is there, how little or

2 whatever is there, we need for them to direct 3 some of that money towards our efforts. 4 MR. BAILEY: Good afternoon. My name is 5 Ron Bailey. I'm a visiting professor in 6 Africana Studies at Savannah State, and I want 7 to pick up on Brother West's reference point. 8 In education people talk about, for example, 9 the stem pipeline, science, technology, 10 education and math, and how students flow 11 through that pipeline. 12 Again, we can go through kindergarten, 13 kindergarten all the way through high school 14 and college. 15 I want to follow up my colleague talking 16 about K through 12, and just mention the 17 importance of the commission focusing on higher 18 education. 19 We had an opportunity in February to host 20 an exhibit for a couple weeks on Gullah/Geechee 21 Jamal was there. It was an exhibit culture. 22 at Macon Museum of Science that we brought. 23 And it was astounding. We had the students 24 write about it and it's really astounding what 25 you see.

2 Some of the students are from Beaufort, 3 have family gatherings, and so those students 4 were aware. We encouraged them to get the 5 video camera, document this history, do 6 interviews.

7 Others students did not have that 8 knowledge and were very excited about being 9 exposed to it for the first time. And so we 10 are talking about how we create a certificate, 11 a heritage education certificate, a minor or 12 a major, how we get students across the 13 curriculum to take these skills in 14 communication or in business, or in humanities 15 and the arts and think about going into 16 heritage education, think about working for 17 museums.

18 And so I think I'd like to ask the 19 commission, there's a wonderful document that 20 the National Park Service did that I think it's 21 a course that's been developed with resources 22 from around the country, but I think that 23 calling people to the table to plan that kind 24 of pre-kindergarten through college curriculum, 25 that we can use as modules in our classrooms,

2 that we can use as internships for students. I hope you also pay attention Paul Pressly 3 4 is sitting there. I hope you also pay 5 attention to gathering up the documents and 6 documentaries, conference proceedings, 7 chronicles, videotapes, oral histories with 8 people like Emory and so on, so that we can be 9 able to call on these resources and plug them 10 in so that meets the Georgia standards, so that 11 gives us additional opportunities to impact the 12 next generation who happen to be sitting where 13 you are to carry on this mission.

14 So my plea is to rally K through 12, rally 15 higher education, and make sure that we are 16 doing what we should be doing to get this 17 information imbedded in our curriculums, and 18 turn students on to not just a momentary thing, 19 but how they can use this information as 20 citizens, as parents and so forth for the rest 21 of their lives. Thank you.

MS. RISIER: Hi, on behalf of the National Park Service, I know that the National Park Service permitted a part of the money that went into --

2 CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Pull the microphone 3 closer.

MS. RISIER: I'm sorry, I'm very soft-spoken, but I can be loud, but from the K to 12, I want you to know Ft. Pulaski offers to education free programs through any school in educational programs that comes to Ft. Pulaski.

10 What I'm telling you guys to do, if 11 there's any volunteers that you know of in the 12 Gullah/Geechee community that would like to 13 come out and give us one day programs, two day 14 programs, one day, whatever they can offer to 15 give to these kids when they're coming out, not 16 to only understand the history of Ft. Pulaski 17 but the Gullah/Geechee connection as well.

We are so open to that, and that is so Much our passion. The National Park Service is not to forget the past, but to preserve it and interpret it. I mean, that was ingrained in us from day one.

I don't have any business cards with me, but I can give you my number, and if there's anyone here interested in doing that and

forming some kind of volunteer community that would come out and give a full day, half a day whatever you're willing to do, we're open. We are so open, that's how passionate we are about this.

7 MR. PRESSLY: Good evening. My name is 8 Paul Pressly. I'm with Ossabaw Island 9 Foundation. It's -- I'm really delighted to 10 see this turnout, the ideas that are being 11 advanced. There's a lot of interest in this.

As you know, we did a symposium in February 2008 for an African American Life and culture in the Georgia Low Country from the 18th century on. Four hundred and forty-five people showed up from 18 states and three nations.

18 That was a huge tribute at the Hilton 19 There is going to be a book published Hotel. 20 by the University of Georgia Press that 21 includes an article by Emory Campbell, Unmasking My Gullah Self, but what we learned 22 23 is this; who sponsored that symposium? 24 Savannah State University, Georgia Southern, Armstrong, Georgia Historical 25

2 Society, Ossabaw Island Foundation and

3 University of Georgia Press.

Partnerships, you know those partnerships
are really the key, and I would like to see
that kind of partnership developed, but the key
I think that's missing in all of this is
Georgia needs to do what South Carolina has,
and that's the equivalent of the Avery
Institute.

11 That's a place of higher education that 12 focuses on Gullah/Geechee heritage, and in that 13 -- the one thing that I would like to see come 14 out of that, and presumably Savannah State 15 would be the logical place, is a website, a 16 website that's devoted to the Gullah/Geechee 17 culture and heritage.

18 We work on Ossabaw Island Foundation. We 19 have three tabby cabins, the north-end 20 There's a huge story to tell with plantation. 21 its connection to Pinpoint, but we're isolated and we need that website to be able to link to. 22 23 So that would be my one recommendation. Thank 24 you.

25 MR. TOURE: I have to say this because

2 one, doing the work with regards to 3 Gullah/Geechee culture, not just here in 4 Georgia, but in South Carolina and going into 5 Northern Florida; one of the things I have to 6 go and say that with regards to Ron, Dr. Bailey 7 spoke with regards to what happened at Savannah 8 State, that the president of Savannah State, 9 Dr. Yarborough, one of the things that we 10 addressed there, we said that the experts on 11 the Gullah/Geechee culture were sitting amongst 12 us and they have performed, that the experts of 13 the culture, that is something that sometimes 14 gets lost, that the people, that Gullah/Geechee 15 people are the experts on the culture.

And too often what happens is that we seek someone who has a Phd or an ED, and we're going to say that that person is an expert on the culture when they know not about the culture, that those people who perform the workshop, they are the experts on the culture.

But what's happened, we have a prejudice. We don't look at those people and say that they're experts on the culture. So we pushed them to the side.

2 Dr. Yarborough, after he looked at the 3 exhibit and saw the turnout and responses, he 4 then said to Geechee Cundah, that's the museum 5 at Riceboro, that we will give you all Adams 6 Hall to put a Gullah/Geechee Institute at 7 Savannah State.

8 So it's already in place. It's just that 9 Dr. Bailey and Jim Bacote have to sit down and 10 get that worked out.

Because again, one of the things that was said at that same meeting that the only HBCU in the Gullah/Geechee area in the State of Georgia is Savannah State University. So it would be ripe for Savannah State to go on and attack that and take on that challenge.

So again, that's something that Dr. Bailey already -- so that's not to be lost. We are already there on that. With regards to again, Gullah/Geechee people this -- I have to do this, because again, as I tell people, I speak for the people; that is those who are not here at times but who are in the other areas.

A lot of time, we have a lot of people, we have from the CVBs, and I'm a member of the

2 local CVB. We have folks from the CVBs, from 3 other institutions and organizations that would love to have people come and perform for free. 4 5 But we tell them, folks, we can no longer 6 do that, that our culture is an economic 7 engine, and also to let y'all know this that we 8 have the pleasure at Geechee Cundah to have 9 some of our partners from the State of Georgia 10 to come down. 11 And we said to them, Georgia has a 12 valuable resource that Georgia is not taking on that South Carolina realized 20 years ago as 13 14 the Gullah/Geechee culture.

Look at Savannah. Savannah is the largest Gullah/Geechee city in the entire State of Georgia. We probably have one of the richest areas for reported Yamacraw and Old Fort and Taberville and Tent City and Curry Town as being right now.

But we are not promoting it, not pushing it and that our people can no longer go on, and I'm not directing to you, but it's just to let you understand, we can no longer do things for free.

2 Our culture has been used for free by many 3 people, and they think a lot of time we're 4 happy to go do a program for someone just to 5 receive some recognition. But guess what, the 6 dollars are received by another organization.

So that's why many of us -- and this is
what I have heard from the people on St.
Simons, in Brunswick, in Savannah, in Riceboro,
in Darien, that we're saying no. We cannot -we will be more than happy to structure a
program for you, so that that way it can be
a partner with you.

We have the collaboration, and I'm not Jamal Toure. I'm just speaking on behalf of the people. I'm not concerned if you don't use me. That's not the problem, but I would love to see use the Rain Shop Performers out of Darien in Georgia.

I would love to see you use Jerome Dixon off of Sapelo to do a seagrass sewing class. I would love to see that. That would make me proud and happy because now we're doing the work.

Again, we're here as commissioners, but

we're here as voices for the people. So again, to let you know, some of us are already in place, even though we don't always get the word out from other people. Again, it's always up to us to bring it out. Thank you.

MS. GUNN: I just want to piggyback really
fast on what Brother Toure is saying. You're
talking about starving Gullah/Geechee artists,
and again we say in Gullah/Geechee community,
who we speak for we, we speak for we.

So I want to challenge not only the folks who are in the institutions, but I'd like to also challenge the artists and artisans to be a little more aggressive as well.

When there's opportunity for us to come together to talk so that we can come up with a strategic plan on how to present ourselves, we need to collectively do that, because the opportunity is the it's best ever been.

January 20th, 2009, an African American President and the word went on CNN news that slaves built The White House. So I do say that I, a saltwater Geechee woman, who do slave narratives and talk about the slave journey

from slavery to freedom can now have carte
blanch to talk about our journey.

This is the best of the best of times. So we have to educate them that you do have to support the arts community. You do have to embrace us, because if you don't we won't be able to take care of who we be.

9 So I just want to say kudos to what 10 Brother Toure is saying, but also to encourage 11 artists to speak with stronger voices, put 12 together professional proposals, do what you 13 need to do with the board of education.

Yes, Brother West, my college mate from 30 plus years ago, we do need culture diversity training in the schools, not only for the children but for the teachers.

18 The demographics have changed. 19 Eighty-five percent of the school system in 20 Chatham County is minorities. And you've read 21 the script and you have teachers that come in 22 from places that have never heard a young child 23 say, why are you late this morning, Jimmy? And 24 Jimmy responds, I dun't know, and she doesn't 25 understand he's saying I don't know.

Yes, we do begin to train everyone on who
each other be, because if you don't your voices
will go away.

5 MS. SCOTT: My name is Janette Shay Scott. 6 And I just wanted to comment on what Jamal 7 said, also our professor from Savannah State, 8 and our principal from public education.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the
fact that having worked with Mr. Law ever since
a very young age, right here in the Civil
Rights Museum, we try to get educational
program into place to really share the rich
history that we have here in Savannah, Georgia.

I'm a part of Yamacraw. My parents always
had a business in Yamacraw. We were always
taught to be proud. We lived in the midst of
history.

And they taught it to us, and he knows that, and we're so blessed to have it. We tried many years to shield it. I attended the affair that you talked about at the DeSoto Hilton, because it was instilled in us from as long as we're here that you really have to learn your history.

2	You can't appreciate another history until
3	you know yours, but there was an attempt to
4	really get into the school system, to really
5	share this and make it a part of the
6	curriculum. I really tried to be a specialist.
7	I did my part in trying to to
8	infiltrate our rich history that we have, and
9	let everyone know that there is a great
10	appreciation we need to have for it.
11	But it is up to us to tell our story. We
12	did have classes here in the old building, the
13	Civil Rights Museum. We opened it up to
14	everyone, but there needs to be a collaborative
15	effort of our persons in the school system, not
16	only did we do it for the Civil Rights Museum,
17	we did it for the citizens, because we worked
18	in all of those factors that Mr. Law saw fit to
19	really collaborate and have it established.
20	So to this day, we need to bring all of
21	the persons to the table, just like we're
22	trying to do to expand the Civil Rights Museum,
23	and have them to do a collaborative effort,
24	just like all of you have spoken about, this is
25	what we need to do so we can incorporate all of

these persons in order to foster the learning
that needs to take place.

I am so this happy to see this venture, take part in it, and to see, hopefully, we can move forward with it.

7 But I think at an early age you need to 8 start training people. My sister and I were 9 very fortunate to grow up in the rich heritage 10 that we had. And we're not ashamed to say 11 we're from Yamacraw. You know, that type of 12 culture you cannot get anyplace else.

And to know that from the cradle -- like the Geechee talk about, from the cradle to the grave, we have to stop the madness and start it from the cradle to the grave.

And they started with us at a very early age. That's why we can appreciate history. That's why we can appreciate our heritage. And it is a very rich one, and we need to start telling our own story.

So my last comment is so let's get all of these entities together, and let's sit down to the table and find out all the resources that we do have here in Savannah, we really have a

2 lot, and really start the ball to rolling. 3 And I love to talk, but I think we need action behind all this that we're doing, but 4 5 this is a great start. And I am so happy to be 6 a part of it. 7 MS. DIXON: Good afternoon. I'm Rosabell 8 Shay Dixon, and my sister -- my sister loves to 9 talk, so I'd just like to piggyback on some of 10 the things that she's saving. 11 I am here because I'm interested in the 12 project, and we have lost a lot of our 13 landmarks. And I am here because we need to 14 preserve all of these important landmarks that 15 we have. As a Gullah, I love Gullah. I try to speak to Jamal all the time. 16 And I'm 17 practicing, but I just -- we need to get

18 together. We need save -- we need to save our 19 heritage, and we need to have some people to 20 get together and to support.

Education is the key. We need to educate the public and let them know what we have here in Savannah. And that's why I'm here, because I would like -- we have lost a lot of things. You know, this used to be West Broad

Street, and we had the heart. It was full of
business. And we have lost the Stock Theatre,
the Dunbar Theatre.

5 We don't anything to say this was a black 6 theatre, you know, everything -- because urban 7 renewal came through. It just destroyed all of 8 our historic landmarks. So we don't want to 9 lose anymore.

10 So if this committee could get together 11 and preserve some of these outstanding heritage 12 places that we have, that would be wonderful. 13 Thank you.

MS. GOODE-WALKER: Good evening everyone. I'm Vaughnette Goode-Walker. I'm the Assistant Curator of Education at the Telfair Museum of Art.

I wear a lot of hats here in the Savannah community. Next week this meeting is going to be that the Turner Hodge Young Community House at Montgomery. That is my shameless plug for the evening.

I would like to talk a little bit about education, what the Telfair has done in the last three years. One of the things that has

come bubbling to the surface here in Savannah
is the history of urban slavery, and the
Telfair Museum has been very aggressive, in
terms of trying to reinterpret the Owens-Thomas
House.

7 And hopefully that will come about very 8 soon. We've also added the walking tour of 9 Reverend Andrew Marshall. I get to say it 10 actually in front of Reverend Tillman for the 11 first time. The Marshall tour is done.

So it is all about education, and I commend the black tour operators here in the City of Savannah. Johnny Brown, who is sitting behind me, we were talking about telling our story, he's been telling the story here in Savannah for a very long time.

And I single out, you know, others who are here. I commend Jamal Toure on his venture, and just to hear Pat Gunn tonight talk about that history across the river. I got some history to add on top of that, but we won't get into that tonight.

But anyway, I think a lot of it is coming to the surface, and this commission will help,

you know, pull some more of these covers back.
And don't let me get started on West Broad
Street, because I grew up in hallowed
Brownsville.

6 And I'm still upset about why is not the 7 name West Broad Street even under MLK. You 8 know, just little things like that make us 9 remember our history, because we lived it, but 10 others try to help us forget that history 11 because they don't want to relive it. So 12 that's all I have say till next week.

MR. COHEN: Well, good evening. My name is Ivan Cohen, and I've lived in this community since 1958. I first came here from across the bridge in South Carolina, Jasper County, a little town called Coosahatchie, what have you.

I started out in Front Street Elementary
School, and moved to St. Mary's, and got to
Savannah and St. Andrew, what have you.

I remember the Star Dunbar Theatre. I remember summer movies, especially at the Star with bottle caps -- remember double features and everything and the cartoon.

25 I remember places like the Vanity Shop,

little portal shops, scenes and pictures in the
windows, what have you. Yeah, a lot has been
lost, but it's good for an organization to come
together and preserve and remember the
Gullah/Geechee culture and everything.

7 I guess, you know, the question I would 8 have is if we had documentation on an item, say 9 like a church or what have you, what criteria 10 would you use to determine that this is 11 connected to -- to this culture?

12 You know, our real olds, as they say, we 13 lose them long before they got to tell their 14 story and what have you. I think not so much 15 only the students in school, but think of their 16 parents, who went through the school system, 17 who never got it either. So you know you got 18 children, young adults, grandparents who, in 19 essence, been robbed.

But tonight I think this is a beginning where that will change. Of course, as you promote the promotion as well as the performances will also make those aware of Gullah/Geechee culture and everything. Like I said, it's a very rich, a very rich culture,

2 and a very enduring culture as well.

MS. CYRAIQUE: Are there any specific sites, here in Savannah, that you think are important to the culture?

6 MS. GUNN: I think the people are the most 7 important factor. Just an example, if you want 8 to hear the language, the flow, the rhythm, 9 come down Fahm on the first of the month when 10 the elders are going downtown to pay their 11 light bill.

Miss Annie May had to pay a light bill of \$37.12, and she didn't have \$.12, and the lady said she was going to disconnect her.

15 All of sudden Miss Annie's dialect changed 16 from a slow pace dialect to a fast pace, and 17 she began to talk others in the van about the 18 fact, how dare she turn me off because I don't 19 have \$.12, but didn't understand Miss Annie 20 May, didn't hear the flow of a Geechee because 21 her tone changed.

The people, you can hear the language. You can hear the flow. You can experience the food ways, the flow ways. When people come to Savannah from somewhere else and they tell me

it takes two to three years to get "in sync", Brother Campbell, I say to them regardless of their color, because you must sit with the people who are from here to learn the front ways of the people here.

7 So what I'm saying is that that's our most 8 important piece that we're losing. The elders 9 have a flow and the children have a flow, and 10 when grandma says where the childlen', and the 11 children laugh, our education piece is to stop 12 them from laughing at grandma and let them 13 understand that grandma isn't speaking ebonics. 14 Grandma isn't speaking broken English.

15 She's speak a dialect so the people can 16 guide us to everything else. They can guide us 17 to the cemeteries. They can guide us to ways 18 to celebrate the birth of a child, as well as 19 how we send people home in a home-going.

When you talk about going to a funeral, and you see the elders pass the youngest child at the cemetery over a casket, going down in the grave site, and a person who has just graduated from Georgia State University doesn't understand that anymore, we've got a problem.

She needs to know when she comes back home that even with your education, as Brother Toure said, you need to know that Nana and them are passing the youngest child over so that the child is protected, and the person who being sent on to the ancestors will not come back and get the child.

9 So I think the people can guide everything 10 else in terms of a full way and the flow ways 11 and the spirituality. But once the people 12 are stood down, and made to feel ashamed of 13 their dialect, then we lose everything else 14 that comes from it.

I share with Dr. Bailey from Savannah
State that when I got involved with
Gullah/Geechee, it was after 30 years in
Atlanta being a paralegal with a firm
top-notch.

But when I came back home in '96 to work for black farmers and got lost in the rural areas and asked for directions, they gave me directions in Gullah and Geechee, but they put their hands over their mouths because they were ashamed of their dialect, and that's when I

2 began this work.

And so the people are the key to guide to everything else that we're losing. They know to push far better than anyone else.

6 MS. SCOTT: That is so true and what she 7 said, and as far as educating and helping our 8 people to get an appreciation -- that is so 9 important because many times they will miss it.

10 I have relatives on Hilton Head, and we 11 would always try to emulate them in the 12 dialect, and try to understand what they did 13 and what they were saying, but there was 14 appreciation for it. I think we've lost the 15 appreciation for our culture, and I don't know how we're going to recapture that through 16 17 seminars, but there is a dire need for that, 18 that that is -- this is a culture.

19 This is not a fly-by-night thing. And we 20 need to implement some sort of seminar to let 21 our young ones to appreciate it. I think more 22 programs doing -- black history month is 23 everyday of the year; however, we started 24 calling attention to it because they want to 25 hear anything about our culture; however, like

18

2 when we would show these films and videos and 3 things like that, I was told, I don't want to 4 see that because I get depressed.

5 You need not get depressed because you 6 don't understand. What you need to do is sit 7 and listen to it, so you can know what your 8 forefathers went through, and then you'll be 9 able to perhaps understand.

But there is definite need for a dialogue so that we can teach our children to understand and appreciate, more than anything else, the importance of our culture.

MS. MTENDAJI: Well, again, I want to add I'm not from this area. I'm from St. Louis, but I highly appreciate culture as a folklorist all traditional and contemporary

African culture anywhere in the world.

But in St. Louis, and I'm not saying what we do in St. Louis we should do here, but I know in South Carolina and even in North Carolina, they institutionalized a lot of this. In the school system -- I've been working

in the school system here for eight years, andI can't even count on my hand how many times

there's been art sessions in the auditoriums of plays, storytellers, or how in classical presentations like on the food ways, we have the economic department.

In the schools they have facilities where demonstrations like that can be done. We need -- you know, we have artists right here, visual and performing artists that's not being tapped to come into the schools, you know, and institutes, something like that.

12 Also, you know, they have the thing the, 13 first Friday and on first Saturdays, well maybe 14 there could be a Gullah/Geechee Saturday, you 15 know, once a month or every other month, and 16 just bring in people from all over, you know, 17 to sort of introduce them to all kinds of, you 18 know, native crafts, performances, tour guides 19 you know, who are available to take people 20 around and show, because people are attracted 21 to things that are visible.

If they can come in and they can see it happening, you know, they come in and that could be sort of resource in terms of that's inroad into them coming here.

When I came here as a folklorist, I knew what to go and tap, and not the regular tours. It's not, you know, they're not going to know how to come in here, but also I'm concerned about tourists. I'm also concerned about the people, because I formerly worked at the Owens-Thomas house.

9 I now work at the Juliet Gordon Low house. 10 I'm a licensed tour guide, and I've also done 11 the Andrew Marshall tour, but I have often by 12 purpose when I schedule the school system and 13 we're kind of trying to fix the schedule, I'll 14 just say no, no, no, I'm going to be at the 15 Owens-Thomas house.

I did that on purpose. I'm going to be at the Juliet Gordon Low house. I did it on purpose, because I noticed even the teachers, administrators, they didn't know what the Owens-Thomas house was.

21 So they got used to it. They would say 22 well, you know, today Ms. Mtendaji is at the 23 Owens-Thomas house. They would sometimes ask 24 me what is it. That was my opportunity to 25 promote that, you know what the Owens-Thomas

2 house was, and where it was and all that. 3 And these are people who have been living 4 here for years. They have been looking at 5 these houses and they don't know. They don't 6 know what they are. 7 So, you know, in terms of education, 8 educating people on the outside, they're going 9 to be attracted to something they can visibly 10 see when they come to the city. 11 In terms of the people that are here, we're going to have to forge a grooming effect, 12 13 you know, from K through college all the way to 14 even the college students on campus. 15 They also -- they don't venture into town 16 to historic sites or culture sites, because 17 they don't really know where they are. So 18 there needs to be a way to promote that. You 19 don't see it on billboards. You don't see it 20 -- I mean there's no visibility. So we have 21 to, you know, we have to dispel the mystery of all this somehow. 22 23 MS. CYRIAOUE: Reverend Tillman, would you 24 like to talk about the religious importance of 25 the culture?

2 REVEREND TILLMAN: Well, funny you should 3 ask me that. I was just asked -- I made a 4 statement, I just thought about being 5 proactive.

6 In order to be proactive, I'd like to take 7 those type of ideas and just move forward with 8 I don't know who would organize it and them. 9 put it together, but if we are going to do this 10 and institutionalize it or put it in place that 11 we can do this on a regular basis, I will 12 offer, for example at the church we have a 13 place we can do that on the first Friday or the 14 first Saturday of the month, if we can just get 15 it started.

Because I believe that not only folk will come, but folk will learn. Our congregation needs to know even more about the whole Gullah/Geechee culture. So we need to do that and we'll offer that and suggest.

I don't know who's going to be deemed to follow up on it, but we need to have somebody to take it from this point and move on with that. But we'll offer that, and we'll start that moving ASAP.

2 That would be a great thing for us. We'll 3 have more dialogue about this on a regular We can have performances, then the 4 basis. 5 discussion, the opportunity to talk back and 6 forth, and to go back through memory lane to 7 talk about what's before us and what it means 8 to us today, and how we can capture what has 9 been lost to some extent even today. There's a 10 way we can do that even today.

MS. CYRIAQUE: That was Reverend Tillman,
The First African Baptist Church.

MS. DAVIS: I just want to add a
perspective of someone a little bit younger and
someone who is a graduate of Savannah State.

16 Being we don't anyone else up here, I feel 17 obligated to say something. I'm actually not 18 from Savannah, but I've been here since 2002, 19 and one of the first things that we have to 20 do in freshmen orientation was visit some of 21 the historical places in Savannah; Telfair 22 Museum, the beach, the Art Institute some of 23 those things.

24 So I agree with a lot of the education 25 points that everyone has made. If you

2 establish these places, with the culture, and 3 you teach them and bring it back to Savannah 4 State, where we're going have that in Adams 5 Hall, make it a part of the students' curriculum to learn who actually live here and 6 7 who are not from here to respect the culture, 8 so that when we hear someone else saying it, as 9 a younger person, we're not laughing.

I find that the dialect is very
 interesting. I was speaking to, I think it was
 Mr. Toure, or Jamal Toure when I first got
 here, and I asked him to speak in dialect.

We joked, but he did it, and I thought it was very interesting. I would like to learn it. So I just wanted to add a youthful and non-Savannah, I guess, side to that.

MR. TOURE: Thank you, Ms. Davis, and unfortunately, that's the last comment. We appreciate y'all turning out. The next meeting will be next Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

That will be at the -- out at Montgomery, and I always have to try to remember the name --

25 MS. GOODE-WALKER: Turner Hodge Young

2 Community Center.

3 MR. TOURE: Turner Hodge Young Community 4 Center, located in Montgomery --5 MS. GOODE-WALKER: Community House. 6 MR. TOURE: Community House -- I know her 7 That's why she's trying to handle it people. 8 like that. But again, what some people don't 9 realize, most folks is going to say Sandfly Pinpoint, like those are the only 10 11 Gullah/Geechee communities in the entire 12 southern part of Chatham County, Savannah or 13 the Chatham County area. 14 But folks don't focus on Montgomery, and 15 Montgomery is a valuable part also to the 16 Gullah/Geechee culture on the southern part of

18 Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

17

We appreciate y'all coming out. Again, spread the word so, again, we can get the stories out. We want to know the access. What are the places along West Broad, what were some of the places along East Broad and throughout this entire community.

Chatham County. So again, we'll be there next

25 We're going to do this throughout the rest

2	of the counties in the State of Georgia,
3	throughout the entire month of June. Again,
4	thank you for coming out. And thank you to the
5	Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum.
6	(Concluded 8:00 p.m.)
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3	CERTIFICATE
4	GEORGIA :
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7	I hereby certify that the foregoing
8	transcript was taken down, as stated in the
9	caption, and the questions and answers thereto were
10	reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the
11	foregoing pages 1 through 62 represent a true and
12	correct transcript of the evidence given upon said
13	hearing, and I further certify that I am not of kin
14	or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in
15	the regular employ of counsel for any of said
16	parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the
17	result of said case.
18	This the 6th day of July, 2009.
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35:22 41:8 54:9	answer 22:21	42:21	billboards 57:19	26:11,13 32:9
access 61:21	answers 63:9	attention 32:3,5	Billy 8:24	called 11:18 48:17
accesses 17:7	anymore 25:25	53:24	birth 51:18	calling 11:16
acknowledge	46:9 51:25	attracted 55:20	bit 5:20,24 11:18	31:23 53:24
22:7	anyplace 44:12	57:9	18:20 46:23	camera 31:5
action 45:4	anyway 47:24	AUDIENCE 2:3	59:14	Campbell 2:25
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