

**(CORRECTED) Timeline of Events, Dr. David Rotenstein and the River Road Moses Cemetery**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
April 2017	Marsha Coleman-Adebayo ( <b>MCA</b> ) invites me to attend a Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition ( <b>BACC</b> ) planning meeting at Macedonia Baptist Church ( <b>MBC</b> )
April 2017	I recommend <b>BACC</b> contact Chicora Foundation, a non-profit South Carolina research firm that specializes in African American cemetery planning, public policy, and documentation. In January 2018 I followed up with Chicora's director; he told me that no one from MBC or BACC had contacted them.
Sept. 2017	Montgomery County Chapter of the NAACP writes to the Montgomery County Council asking that designation proceedings begin to list the River Road Moses Cemetery site in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. <b>MBC</b> and <b>BACC</b> were not informed of this and did not learn about it until several months after the fact. Then-Council President Hans Riemer replied to the NAACP in a letter dated Jan. 4, 2018, that Master Plan for Historic Preservation designations are made in accordance with Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code via the Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Board.
Nov. 2017	<b>BACC</b> asks me to conduct research and prepare documentation to initiate designation of cemetery site in Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation and National Register of Historic Places. A verbal agreement is executed that I would conduct the work and if the designation was successful I would present <b>MBC</b> with an invoice for direct labor and expenses incurred.
Nov. 2017-Aug. 2018	I conducted archival research in MD, VA, and DC and consulted sources in PA and NY. I identified members of the River Road descendant community and descendants of the displaced Reno and Chevy Chase Black communities whose kin founded White's Tabernacle in the 1870s and the two cemeteries, Chevy Chase (1880-1910) and River Road (1911-1958). These individuals include White's Tabernacle founders' descendants and the descendants of people buried in both cemeteries.
Dec. 1, 2017	My article, "The Moses Cemetery: Where Serial Displacement Meets History" is published in The Activist History Review at <a href="https://activisthistory.com/2017/12/01/the-moses-cemetery-where-serial-displacement-meets-history/">https://activisthistory.com/2017/12/01/the-moses-cemetery-where-serial-displacement-meets-history/</a> .
Dec. 2017	I read a statement into the record at the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission ( <b>HOC</b> ) that I was working on behalf of <b>MBC</b> and <b>BACC</b> to prepare historic preservation designation documentation pursuant to Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.
Feb. 2018	I wrote a series of blog and Facebook posts for <b>BACC</b> derived from my research and using photos and I video I shot to document <b>BACC</b> and <b>MBC</b> advocacy for the cemetery site. The latter were used to defend the proposal presented in my September 2018 report that the site is a traditional cultural property inextricably tied to <b>MBC</b> , River Road, and the DC and MD descendant communities.

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April 2018	I backed away from <b>BACC</b> activism after concerns arose with its partner, SURJ, and the tactics being used to lobby for the cemetery's preservation and commemoration. I believed that the information being disseminated, the attacks on community members and public officials (e.g., HOC) were not conducive to achieving the necessary wide community support for future Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Board proceedings to secure designation under Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.
June 2018	After learning that <b>BACC</b> had produced a video (posted on YouTube) for use in activism for preserving the cemetery that incorporated video footage and still photographs that I produced without securing permission in advance and without credit in accordance with U.S. Copyright laws, I revoked all rights to the intellectual property I had previously produced. YouTube deleted the video after reviewing my copyright claim.
July 2018	I began sending <b>MCA</b> and Segun Adebayo ( <b>SA</b> ) drafts of report sections and oral history transcripts. Despite requests for acknowledgement of receipt, I received no replies.
Aug. 2018	I learned that <b>BACC</b> had formed a partnership with American University graduate students to conduct oral history research and other ethnographic fieldwork with members of the descendant communities — work that I had been doing on behalf of MBC and BACC since Nov. 2017.
Sept. 2018	I emailed <b>MCA</b> and <b>SA</b> that my report was nearing completion and that I wanted to arrange a way to share drafts with them. I received no replies to my emails.
Sept. 2018	After rushing to complete the report with my research results and recommendations for historic preservation protection under county and federal laws, along with the necessary form to begin the review process in Montgomery County, I began distributing the report to members of the descendant communities and government agencies. The first agencies to receive the report were the Montgomery County Planning Department, Montgomery County Parks Department, and D.C. Historic Preservation Office.
Sept. 18, 2018	I met with Harvey Matthews in the <b>MBC</b> basement and I provided him with a bound printed copy of the report; printed transcripts from the interviews I did with him in 2017 and 2018; a printed copy of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form; and, all of these materials and interview audio files burned to DVD.
Oct. 3, 2018	I presented a printed and bound copy of my report, including the completed Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, and a written statement to the <b>HOC</b> .
Dec. 10, 2018	<b>HOC</b> posts a scan of my October 3 statement and the bound report on its website.
Dec. 2018	<b>BACC</b> produces another video and it is posted on the Internet (Vimeo). I presented <b>BACC</b> with a claim for the unauthorized use of my intellectual property and the video subsequently was deleted.

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Jan. 23, 2019	<b>MCA</b> interviews former Montgomery County Council candidate Tim Willard on her WPFW radio talk show. In the interview, she described me several times as <b>HOC's</b> historian ("THEIR historian"). <b>MCA</b> and Willard in a three-minute segment then made false statements about the report I prepared and <b>HOC's</b> use of the report and my October 2018 statement.
Jan 29-31, 2019	<p><b>BACC</b> releases several statements via email and its Facebook page with false statements regarding my relationship to HOC, the contents of my report, and my October 2018 statement to <b>HOC</b>. In addition to disseminating false information about MBC's history and its associations with the cemetery, the statements included the following false assertions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A self-appointed authority on the history of the lost River Road African community, who had offered to assist our struggles to achieve historical designation of the Moses Cemetery turned against the coalition and submitted his report to HOC, instead of to Macedonia. [In 2017 and 2018 MBC and BACC regularly described my research as authoritative and recommended its current and potential allies to read my blog posts and a December 2017 article I wrote for an online public history journal. As this timeline shows, MBC stopped communicating with me in August 2018 and the first parties to receive the report were members of the descendant community and government agencies other than HOC.]</i></li> <li>• <i>This historian claimed his research revealed that Macedonia is not the descendant community and recommended that HOC should establish an advisory committee to determine how to memorialize the deceased ancestors. HOC abandoned our prior understanding and decided to adopt the recommendation of the historian. This was a clear attempt to diminish our involvement and dilute our voice. [Nowhere in my report, my October 2018 statement, or other writings have I ever claimed that MBC "is not the descendant community." In fact, on pp. 93-106 of my September 2018 report, I explicitly stated that MBC is part of the descendant community. And, despite repeated requests from MBC's former pastor, Rev. Sterling King (in March 2018), that I not write about MBC's history because in his opinion there was no historical association connecting the church with the cemetery. Rev. King's comments were made to me in a telephone call March 27, 2018, and in a meeting held in the MBC basement with Segun Adebayo April 3, 2018. I took into account Rev. King's comments and proceeded with researching and writing about MBC's history and its associations with the cemetery in my Sept. 2018 report (see pp. 68-72). My recommendation to HOC in the statement I delivered Oct. 3, 2018, reflected my concern that members of the more dispersed descendant community were being excluded by MBC and BACC in efforts to preserve and commemorate the site. As recently as November 2018, members of the dispersed descendant community identified in my report and whose contact information I had provided MBC had not yet heard from MBC or BACC.]</i></li> </ul>