

# Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

## BILL 37-21: ANIMAL CONTROL — ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE — ESTABLISHED

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### SUMMARY

OLO anticipates that Bill 37-21 will have a negligible impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in Montgomery County.

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### PURPOSE OF RESJ STATEMENT

The purpose of RESJ impact statements is to evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice in the County. Racial equity and social justice refer to a **process** that focuses on centering the needs, power, and leadership of communities of color and low-income communities with a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities.<sup>1</sup> Achieving racial equity and social justice usually requires seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social harms that have caused racial and social inequities.<sup>2</sup>

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### PURPOSE OF BILL 37-21

The goal of Bill 37-21 is to establish a County Animal Services Advisory Committee to address issues related to animal welfare in Montgomery County. Appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Council, the Committee would consist of 11 voting members representing various stakeholders from the community and three non-voting members from the Office of Animal Services. The Committee would meet at least six times per year and submit an annual report to the County Executive and Council on its functions, activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives. Bill 37-21 was introduced to the County Council on October 19, 2021.

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### ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

Since the intent of Bill 37-21 is to advance the welfare of animals, OLO anticipates that the bill would have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice in the County if any impact. As such, no changes in racial equity or social justice for County residents are anticipated under Bill 37-21.

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### CAVEATS

Two caveats to this racial equity and social justice impact statement should be noted. First, predicting the impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice is a challenging, analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJ impact statement is intended to inform the legislative process rather than determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

# RESJ Impact Statement

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<sup>1</sup> Definition adopted from definition of racial equity described in the Racial Equity Policy Scorecard included in “Applying a Racial Equity Lens into Federal Nutrition Programs,” authored by Marlysa Gamblin; see the Government Alliance for Race and Equity’s “Advancing Racial Equity and Transforming Government” resource guide for understanding of the historical role of government in creating maintaining racial inequities [https://racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/GARE-Resource\\_Guide.pdf](https://racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/GARE-Resource_Guide.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Adopted from racial equity definition provided by Racial Equity Tools. <https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary>