



RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 11, 2022

Dear County Council,

As an advisory committee to the County Executive, County Council and County agencies on racial equity and social justice, the Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee is formally requesting that Thrive Montgomery 2050 receive a racial equity and social justice analysis before it is finalized through a vote.

By using the well-established racial equity and social justice tools and systems the county already has at its disposal, the Council can better predict if Thrive will advance equity, or not. If the analysis indicates that Thrive will advance equity, the process of the analysis would have built credibility, buy-in and justification for Thrive – particularly among communities of color. If the analysis indicates that Thrive will not or partially advance equity, it will provide information on the areas in the plan where we can partner to collectively address and strengthen Thrive. Either way, conducting the analysis will demonstrate our shared commitment to advance equity.

Although the 2019 Racial Equity and Social Justice legislation has helped to begin to transform how our county operates, the current legislation does not require the Planning Board to conduct a Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement for any of its plans. With fewer safeguards to shield our most marginalized communities from negative unintended consequences of well-intended policies, we must ensure that Thrive does not continue to exacerbate long-standing inequities in Montgomery County:

- Among renter households in 2019, rent-burden (expending 30 percent or more of income on rent) was experienced among 66 percent of Latinx renters and 60 percent of Black renters compared to 40 percent of White renters and 33 percent of Asian renters¹.
- Among COVID Relief Rental Program clients (approved as of April 4, 2021), 43 percent were Black, and 37 percent were Latinx while 9 percent were White, and 3 percent were Asian or Pacific Islanders².
- Among adults experiencing homelessness in 2020, 60 percent were Black, 30 percent were White, 17 percent were Latinx, and 5 percent were Asian and Pacific Islanders. Among

¹ Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Zoning Text Amendment Statement: ZTA 21-07: Density and Height Allocation – Development with Moderately Priced Dwelling Units. Available at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/resjis/ZTA/2021/ZTA21-07.pdf>

² Ibid

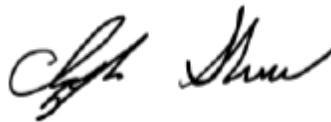
families experiencing homelessness, 78 percent were Black, 15 percent were White, 9 percent were Latinx, and 2 percent were Asian³.

Equitable decision-making processes lead to equitable outcomes. By conducting a racial equity and social justice analysis, the County Council is best positioned to make informed decisions to help ascertain that its vote, guidance, and future planning policy will move towards our shared goal of an equitable county.

Thank you for your consideration. Our committee remains available to support you in any manner.

Sincerely,

The Montgomery County Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee



Izola Shaw
Chair,



Shane Lloyd
Vice-Chair

cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive

³ Ibid.