



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2023 (6:36 P.M.)**

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by Shane Lloyd, the Chair of the Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee (RESJAC).

II. ATTENDEES

Community Members: Shane Lloyd (Chair), Jared Hautmamaki (Vice Chair), Sonia Canzater, Dr. Isaac Cudjoe, Dr. Pat Grant, Shuo Huang, Tasnuva Khan,

County Staff Members: Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian), Dr. Anthony R Alston, Sylvia Hernandez, Betty Lam, James Stowe

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Sarah Alvarez, Jeanette Rojas, Rhiannon Reeves

Guests: Jennifer Prillman (Community Advocate), Omodamola Williams (MORE Network)

III. AGENDA

- The agenda was reviewed. There were no changes or additions.

IV. MINUTES

- The September 2023 minutes will be emailed to the RESJAC members for review. A request will be included for RESJAC members to also vote on the minutes by email.

V. AGENDA ITEM # 1: ADVANCE MEETING NOTICE DISCUSSION

- The Chair acknowledged a quorum.
- Shane Lloyd (Chair) shared that a small group worked on the draft response to the County Council's vote to revise the Council Rules of Procedure, which reduced the advance notice for public hearings after the introduction of bills from three weeks to two weeks. The purpose of the draft response was to express RESJAC's concerns that the change in the advance notice for public hearings would make it more difficult for the general public to engage in the legislative process actively.
 - Director Jim Stowe raised questions about the wording of the draft response. Discussion by the RESJAC committee was pursued.
 - Jared Hautmamaki inquired whether the County Council's decision would limit the Council's response to a pandemic. Selena Mendy Singleton responded that

emergency situations (i.e., pandemics) were covered in the County Council's revision.

After the discussion around the wording of the response, a motion by Shuo Huang and a second by Dr. Alston was made to accept the amended draft response. The Chair conducted a roll call vote of the RESJAC members in attendance. The vote unanimously passed to accept the amended response to the County Council, which stated RESJAC's concerns with the County Council's revision of the advance meeting notice. The Chair stated that the next step would be to send RESJAC's response to Tiffany Ward, the County's Chief Equity Officer, for review, and to send out to the County Council.

VI. AGENDA ITEM # 2: PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Director Jim Stowe suggested that RESJAC do the following:
 1. Partner with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) on their national summit on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
 2. Have a county forum on DEI.
 3. Promote an equity activity at the Juneteenth event in 2024.
 4. Build on the requirements of the departments to have an impact statement.
 5. Consider programming opportunities at the annual Friendship Picnic. Director Stowe stressed how this event reflects when the community collectively comes together, it does better.

A vote was not taken on these recommendations.

- The Chair will reach out to the NOVA Chamber of Commerce to get information about their DEI efforts.
- Dr. Alston will provide more information on the Minority Scholars program and how this program supports DEI work.
- Sonia Canzater reported that an effort to find ways to resource high school and college students to see how to provide them with stipends is still underway.
- Tasnuva Khan shared that more groups are coming under attack, and she also stressed the need for more expansion of social justice focus.
- Dr. Isaac Cudjoe suggested forming focus groups to get input on how people feel about DEI.
- Betty Lam suggested that RESJAC piggyback on the County's Heritage Month celebrations by attending events and/or co-sponsorship of a table or event by providing a financial contribution.
- Jared Hautmamaki stated that RESJAC should research some of the DEI legal challenges. He raised a question about "how do we organize legally and politically to address the rising DEI political and legal challenges?"

VII. AGENDA Item #3: Tasks of the Committee Discussion

- The Chair requested feedback about the rotation of assignments. Following were some of the comments:
 - Betty Lam expressed that she thought the rotation was a “good idea.” Betty found the notetaking to be straightforward.
 - Sylvia Hernandez felt the rotation was a “good experience.” She also stated that more follow-up between meetings was needed, and she also felt disconnected between meetings.
 - Shou Huang also expressed that he felt somewhat disconnected between the meetings and suggested structuring committees so that RESJAC’s work is around the budget cycles so the committee could talk to each department. Shou also suggested that the Retreat be held before the start of the fiscal year. In addition, Shou suggested that RESJAC focus the entire year on getting feedback from the community, prioritize the community’s feedback, and align the community’s feedback with a racial equity and social justice focus.
 - Betty Lam felt that there were too many departments (i.e., 30), which may be challenging. Betty also stated that it may not be feasible to talk to the departments about their budgets due to the County’s rules and regulations around discussing budgets.
- The Chair shared that the Issue Identification Process allows the committee to be more thorough. He also stated that special meetings can be held to handle emergency issues. The Chair mentioned that a survey would be sent out that would ask how much time members spend on RESJAC work. The Chair shared that the number of mandated meetings is minimal and also stated that the committee could consider meeting bi-monthly.

VIII. AGENDA Item # 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

- The Chair mentioned that he is waiting for an update on the renewal of terms for some of the members.
- The Chair announced that Shou Huang would be resigning.
- Selena Singleton stated that the discussions by anti-hate cohorts are taking place. She also shared that the cohorts are providing recommendations on what the Council should be doing. The Montgomery County Anti-Hate Task Force will give precedence to measures that advance public safety, counteract hate crimes and incidents directed towards BIPOC members, and combat racism, which encompasses hate crimes against Black and African American, Asian American, and Pacific Islander, Latino/Hispanic, Jewish, Muslim, immigrant, and LGBTQ+ persons, as well as other communities.
- Selena also shared that the County Council discussed two different wage bills; one had seven testimonies, and the other had 40 testimonies.
- Jim Stowe stated that departments have submitted their FY25 budgets. Public hearings on the FY25 budget are in.

- Jim Stowe shared information on the following upcoming activities:
 - October 22, 2023, in Poolesville: A marker will be placed where George Peck was lynched in Poolesville.
 - November 11, 2023, additional markers at the site of the County jail where two other men were lynched in Rockville will also be placed, followed by a reception.
- Friday, November 3rd, 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M., GARE’s Race Forward will facilitate the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Planning for Equitable Development Event.
- Shane Lloyd (the Chair) was recently profiled in Bloomberg Law on the political and legal backlash DEI is experiencing.

IX. ADJOURN

- The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.