



RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

March 27, 2025

Dear Montgomery County State Legislators,

On behalf of the Montgomery County Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee (RESJAC) and the more than one million residents of Montgomery County, MD, thank you in advance for your support for HB 1198 (Cross-filed with: SB0632 - Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Prerelease Services for Female Incarcerated) and HB0964 (Montgomery County - Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove MC 5-25). These pieces of legislation would help bring closure to the damaging policies that women and Blacks living in Maryland have historically experienced.

While we will continue to support and uplift additional legislation to protect Marylanders, we support these specific efforts that will:

- Establish a state-level facility for women in Maryland, which would effectively address a longstanding equity issue by providing incarcerated females nearing release with a safe, supportive pre-release environment that offers essential resources and assistance for successful reintegration into society.
- Establish a task force to investigate the historical racial injustices faced by the Black residents of the Emory Grove community in Montgomery County, stemming from their forced relocation due to urban renewal policies under the Housing Act of 1949. We feel that the mandate that this task force must provide recommendations for reparative measures for those affected by these policies will benefit past and future residents of this historic community and help inform future policies.

Both HB1198 and HB0964 successfully passed the House and have crossed over to the Senate. We applaud the work of the sponsors of these two bills and support their passage in the full Maryland State Assembly. We also humbly request that you vote favorably for these important bills on behalf of Maryland's six million residents. RESJAC stands ready to support and partner to ensure the passage of these bills.

Sincerely,

The Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee