



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021 (6:30 PM)
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members: Izola (Zola) Shaw (Chair), Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian) Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo (Jim) Huang, Sylvia Hernandez, Jordan Neal, Willie Parker Loan, Jim Stowe, Partap Verma, Gustavo Torres (by phone)

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Tiffany Ward

Not in Attendance: Betty Lam, Tasnuva Khan, Sonia Canzater

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Shaw.

AGENDA

No objections or additions.

MINUTES

No objections or additions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item: Subcommittee Report Out

- Shuo (Jim) Huang – Public Safety: Discussed supporting the Police Advisory Commission’s recommendations on Traffic Stops.
- Shuo (Jim) Huang and Gustavo Torres: Discussed drafting a letter on how to cover the County’s uninsured.
- Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair) – Transportation and Environment: Discussed that the Department of Environmental Protection would like to work with RESJAC in creating racial equity metrics for the Climate Action Plan.
- Izola (Zola) Shaw (Chair) – Communications and Outreach: Discussed that the subcommittee plans to host a community forum in early April.

No motions made.

Item: Tracking Native American COVID-19 data letter to the Governor

Action: Shuo (Jim) Huang moved to approve and submit the presented letter to the Governor to request that counties report and include “American Indian or Alaska Native” as a category separate from the “Other” in COVID-19 online data products at the state level, including monthly and total cases, monthly and total mortality, and vaccination rates by partial and full dosage. Jared Hautamaki seconded.

The following members voted to approve and process the letter for submission through the Intergovernmental Affairs: Izola Shaw, Shane Lloyd, Selena Mendy Singleton, Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo (Jim) Huang, Sylvia Hernandez, Jordan Neal, Willie Parker Loan, Jim Stowe, Partap Verma, Gustavo Torres.

Item: Land acknowledgement

Jordan Neal led a discussion on the committee starting each meeting with a land acknowledgement. Jordan Neal noted she would allow more time for the committee to review the draft acknowledgement; no motions made.

Item: Membership update/County Housing member (Tiffany Ward)

Tiffany Ward provided an explanation on how the county departments were selected to send representatives to sit on the RESJ Advisory Committee; no motions made.

Item: Updates on Thrive 2050 and RESJAC response

Action: Izola Shaw moved to draft a letter to the County Council requesting that Thrive 2050 receive a racial equity analysis before it is finalized through a vote. Jordan Neal seconded:

The following members voted to draft a letter: Izola Shaw, Shane Lloyd, Selena Mendy Singleton, Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo Huang, Sylvia Hernandez, Jordan Neal, Willie Parker Loan, Jim Stowe, Partap Verma, Gustavo Torres; and Partap Verma abstained.

Item: Issue Identification Checklist

Shane Lloyd led a discussion on the issue checklist. Selena Mendy Singleton shared the checklist was with the County Attorney’s office, and it was determined that the checklist did not violate Robert’s Rules of Order. There were no objections to accepting the issue checklist.

NEW BUSINESS

Item: Reparations Discussion

Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair) led a discussion, addressed questions, and shared a video of a testimony presented at the State’s work session on the Harriet Tubman Act (Maryland’s proposed reparations Act).

Item: Year in Review

Izola Shaw asked the following questions and Committee members responded via the chat:

- What did you like about our first year?

Responses: Building relationships (3); abilities to share different perspectives; addressing inequities to COVID prevention (2); learning experiences/ Racial Equity Institute training; learning more about what the County government does; seeing the group grow.

- Are there any areas where you see opportunities?

Responses: rising crime (2); hearing the passion from each person; Critical Race Theory; community engagement and working with community organizations on issues (2).

- What areas or policy topics do you want to focus on for 2022?

Responses: How to reframe narratives to not exclude members of our community e.g., wage theft being a much larger impact than locally reported crimes-especially during the covid recovery and end of various assistance programs; income pilot program; Housing crisis, crime and addressing historic disinvestment; budget process; redistricting, rising crime (2); more opportunities to show the benefits of racial equity programs for our county; exploring the issue of creating crime narratives to support increased racist policies in the past and present; exploring data and statistics to inform committee actions.

Item: Planning Retreat Session II

Tiffany Ward asked the committee to form a subgroup of members who are interested in planning the second session of the retreat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Stowe shared the following announcements:

- On December 17 County Executive Elrich presented the 2021 Humanitarian Awards to Byron A. Johns, Blanca Kling, Diego Uriburu and Harvey Zeigler.
- The County's event to commemorate the Martin Luther King holiday and day of service on January 17 will be a hybrid event.

TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Izola Shaw shared the following tentative agenda items for future meetings:

- Community speakers and experts
 - Deepa Iyer, Social Justice Mapping Session
- Housing presentation and discussion
- Continued reparations discussion

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by Chair Shaw