



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021 (6:30 PM)
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members: Troy Boddy, Sonia Canzater, Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo (Jim) Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Jordan Neal, Betty Lam, Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Willie Parker-Loan, Izola Shaw, Selena Mendy Singleton, Jim Stowe, Gustavo Torres

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Gimari Jones

Not in Attendance: Partap Verma (Chair), Sylvia Hernandez

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Vice Chair Lloyd

AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

MINUTES

The minutes of 4/21 & 5/19 were approved as submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item: Retrospective on Committee's Work from September 2020 to May 2021

- Committee members shared thoughts and reflections about the Committee, and discussed additional ways that the Committee may want to impact the community, participate in policy debates, learn more about County Council priorities, short- and long-term policies, and whether to follow up with letters to County officials.

ACTION: Gimari Jones will check with Tiffany Ward on how/when we can get a response to the letter to the County Executive, or what the timeline for responses to the letter might be.

Item: Guests and Activities for Future Meetings

- Committee members discussed possible topics for guests and/or future meetings including: evictions; post-COVID return to school; the HHS Rental Relief Program, and the DEP climate action plan, and creating a list of possible issues to present to the County Council

- In terms of community engagement, mentioned that there will be town halls to engage communities of color and a lot of BIPOC organizations are partnering with them (DEP) to ensure the community is informing the plan; and that the Committee should be hearing from people who are experiencing the hardships, not just the directors and creators of the policies and plans, especially since oftentimes plans are developed without the community.
- Committee members could also consider engaging in events, for example, by volunteering at food drives

ACTION: Prepare and discuss list of issues to perhaps raise with Council members.

Item: Juneteenth Committee Participation and Sponsorship

- Jim Stowe shared information about the Juneteenth celebration to the committee, taking place on Saturday, June 19th.
- Committee members agreed to donate \$5,000 from the RESJ of the Committee education and outreach fund money to the Juneteenth celebration. Mr. Stowe abstained.

ACTION: Committee will donate \$5,000 to the Juneteenth celebration as a gold level sponsor. ORESJ will work to transfer the donation to the Office of Human Rights (the department that is putting on the event)

Item: RESJAC Retreat

- Gimari Jones gave an update on the retreat – the ORESJ proposed pushing it back to September, to allow more time to acquire a facilitator.
- Many committee members stated they would prefer to have the retreat sooner – lots of people are traveling or busy in September.

ACTION: Ms. Jones will send retreat survey for input on retreat topics for planning

ACTION: Ms. Jones will discuss date options for August instead of September with Ms. Ward.

Subcommittee structure

- Discussed potential committee focus areas - including food security, immigration/refugee, housing, Covid-19 recovery, housing, policing, redistricting, climate/environmental justice, education, communication/outreach and engagement.
- Some committee members volunteered to be chairs.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 2 public members introduced themselves.

ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 by Vice Chair Lloyd