



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021 (6:30 PM)
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members: Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo (Jim) Huang, Sylvia Hernandez, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Jordan Neal, Willie Parker-Loan, Izola Shaw, Selena Mendy Singleton, Gustavo Torres, and Partap Verma (Chair)

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Gimari Jones, Tiffany Ward

Not in Attendance: Troy Boddy, Sonia Canzater, Jim Stowe,

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

Mr. Huang suggested adding a discussion about the police shooting of Ryan LeRoux.

The agenda was adopted as amended.

MINUTES

The minutes of 6/16 were approved as submitted

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item: Juneteenth debrief – Jim Stowe

Mr. Cudjoe provided a briefing later in the meeting

Item: Critical Race Theory Education Proposal – Jared Hautamaki

Mr. Hautamaki proposed using some of the committee's RESJ funds to address the 'Critical Race Theory' disinformation via a video campaign. Committee members also discussed how to create the video and what funds might be available.

Chair Verma suggested forming a subcommittee to discuss details.

ACTION: Mr. Hautamaki will work on a subcommittee; ORESJ will check with the MCG cable team to discern if the video can be produced in-house.

Item: Health Issues Update – Pat Grant

- Ms. Grant discussed her participation in the Community Health program as a volunteer.
- Ms. Grant mentioned to that group that the RESJ committee is interested in addressing the challenges aligned to the committee’s sub-committees

Item: RESJAC Retreat – Tiffany Ward

- Ms. Ward gave an update on the retreat – proposing breaking the retreat into two dates, the first in September and the second later in the Fall
- Proposed session 1 focuses on relationship building, training and development, while the committee focuses on consensus building during the second retreat later in the Fall.

ACTION: ORESJ will send out a survey to get input on retreat development from the committee

Item: Subcommittee Breakouts

- Due to technological issues, Chair Verma proposed that the Committee not participate in sub-committee breakouts during this meeting, but instead use the August session for sub-committee meetings instead of a full-group meeting.
- Committee agreed.

ACTION: ORESJ will send out a Doodle poll to solidify the members of each sub-committee, and another to get input on retreat dates.

Item: Subcommittee Debriefings

- The committee did not have subcommittee breakouts. Instead, used the time to decide how to proceed with subcommittees in August.

NEW BUSINESS

Item: Committee will meet in subcommittee sessions

Item: Cudjoe discussed the Juneteenth celebration in Mr. Stowe’s absence.

Item: Mr. Huang moved that “The Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee urges the Montgomery County Police Department to release the body camera footage of the shooting death of Ryan LeRoux for the sake of public accountability and transparency.”

Mr. Hautatmaki seconded. Some committee members want more information to decide, while others agree with Mr. Huang. Mr. Parker-Loan gave the committee some background on the process from the police perspective.

The following Committee members voted aye: Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo (Jim) Huang, Sylvia Hernandez, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Jordan Neal, Izola Shaw, Gustavo Torres, and Partap Verma (Chair). Mr. Parker-Loan and Ms. Singleton abstained

ACTION: The Committee will send a letter to Chief Marcus Jones with ccs to the County Executive, and the County Council.

- Mr. Huang then moved that the Committee mourn the killing of Ryan LeRoux, and connect it to the systemic racism that has seen 5 police killings in 2021 alone including Kwamena Ocran, Kevin Costlow, Domonique Williams, James Johnson, and Ryan LeRoux, of whom 4 have been Black men
- There was no second to the motion; motion failed

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- One public participant shared personal thoughts on the police killings.
- Two other public participants shared personal opinions about Zoning Text Amendment 19-07.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by Chair Verma.