



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 (6:30 PM)
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members: Izola (Zola) Shaw (Chair), Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian), Sonia Canzater, Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Jordan Neal

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Tiffany Ward

Absent: Willie Parker-Loan, James Stowe, Sylvia Hernandez

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Chair Shaw.

AGENDA

No objections or additions.

MINUTES

The July 20, 2022 minutes were approved.

RESJ REVIEW OF THRIVE 2050 DISCUSSION

Item: Mr. Jordan Exantus, Nspiregreen presented RESJ findings on Thrive 2050

Discussion Highlights:

- NspireGreen reached out to communities of color and other underrepresented groups via survey and several focus groups:
 - Based on the focus group findings, community members expressed disappointment in the lack of information on Thrive 2050; they expressed reservations about development that did not address their current needs; they expressed fears about displacement, and many residents were dissatisfied with their current living conditions and the county's system of accountability for landlords.
- Since the Planning Board failed to collect demographic data throughout their engagement efforts, Mr. Exantus mentioned the report's recommendation to "use Title VI requirements as benchmarks goals for collecting demographic data during engagement efforts. Title VI demographic data collection requirements should be the starting point for this process and not the standard."
- Mr. Exantus expressed the need to do community engagement with integrity and shared that the following is needed to conduct appropriate community engagement:

- Culturally competent staff
- Meetings or gatherings that happen where people live or work
- Daycare and food provided for members
- A stipend for meeting attendance
- Mr. Exantus expressed concern about the amount of time Nspiregreen had to do the necessary community engagement and noted that successful community engagement for a project as large and significant as Thrive 2050 should take as long as one year.

DISCUSSION WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH

Discussion Highlights:

- County Executive Elrich expressed the following concerns about the Thrive 2050 plan:
 - The plan accounts for people who will potentially move to the county, but not the people who already live here, particularly people who make 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or less.
 - County Executive Elrich discussed the history of the development in the county and the need to correct the inequities that it has created.
 - County Executive Elrich talked about the need to hold on to current naturally occurring affordable housing.
- The committee discussed the potential impact on both renters and small landlords.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- Selena Mendy Singleton provided an update on the July committee briefing from HHS and the Fetal Infant Mortality Review team on infant mortality and maternal mortality and morbidity in Montgomery County. Council Central staff met with Drs. Rogers and Bridgers, and Rebecca Smith discussed overall requests of the Fetal Infant Mortality Review/Community Action Team FIMR/CAT team. Ms. Singleton made the committee aware of an October 27, 2022, virtual town hall on infant mortality and pregnancy loss and mentioned that a “save the date” notice will be emailed to members following the meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm by Chair Shaw.