



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 (6:30 PM)  
MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Committee Members:** Izola (Zola) Shaw (Chair), Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian), Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Jared Hautamaki, Sylvia Hernandez, Shuo Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Jordan Neal, Willie Parker-Loan, Gustavo Torres

**Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff:** Tiffany Ward and Jeanette Rojas

**Absent:** Sonia Canzater, James Stowe, Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Anthony Alston

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Chair Shaw.

**AGENDA**

No objections or additions.

**MINUTES**

The September 21, 2022, minutes were approved.

**Subcommittee Report Outs**

**Item:** Subcommittee Chairs provided status updates

Discussion Highlights:

- Isaac Cudjoe– Communications and Outreach: The subcommittee plans to meet in the upcoming weeks to discuss new ways to conduct outreach and engagement with younger community members.
- Shuo Huang – Public Safety, Immigration and Health: The subcommittees plan to discuss health disparities in the upcoming weeks.

**November RESJAC Elections**

**Item:** Discuss the upcoming RESJAC elections and answer any questions

Discussion Highlights:

- The committee plans to hold its next election during the November 16 meeting.

- The committee confirmed that elected committee leaders serve one-year terms but can be re-elected; and the committee can decide to add elected positions as needed, such as Second Vice Chair.

## **DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILMEMBER WILL JAWANDO**

### Discussion Highlights:

- Rent Stabilization is an ongoing issue:
  - The last rent stabilization legislation expired in May. The Department of Housing has received reports of rent increases from 20% to 50%.
  - Bill 22-22 E would extend a rent cap for another 6 months while the council looks at creating a more permanent solution.
- Police reform and reimagining public safety:
  - Councilmember Jawando discussed a bill that will pass next Tuesday that will add a week to the 20-week police training taught by Montgomery College professors in community justice with a focus on racial equity, social justice, communication, de-escalation, and the history of policing. Trainees will be graded, and it will be used to evaluate their fitness before they start on the job. He additionally mentioned his efforts to remove police from overseeing minor traffic offenses.
  - He also discussed a study on racial disparities in traffic enforcement in Montgomery County that will be released to the public next week.
- Health disparities and equity:
  - Councilmember Jawando mentioned he is focused on health equity, especially since the pandemic. He is working on proposals in this area.
  - He plans to set up meetings with different committees on health initiatives and is working to create a commission on health disparities to make it a priority.
- Education system:
  - Councilmember Jawando discussed that children are continuing to be disproportionately affected as a result of the pandemic and we need a robust approach; touched on the need for afterschool and mentorship programs; and mentioned partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Libraries, and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
  - He noted the council will have committee sessions on the anti-racist audit, which will give the council tools and direction to inform decisions.
- Thrive 2050:
  - Jared Hautamaki asked what actions the council plans to take from the RESJ review of Thrive.
  - Councilmember Jawando responded that he plans to vote for Thrive, discussed the amendments, and noted that the plan lays out a vision for the county. He also noted that the county plans to build on its efforts to have more inclusive communications and outreach. He also noted that the council needs strategies to prevent displacement and gentrification.

## **DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Item: Reviewed accomplishments and discussed opportunities for 2023**

- Zola Shaw presented a slide deck identifying 30 RESJAC key accomplishments over 11 months that she compiled from reviewing the minutes, including:
  - Six advocacy accomplishments
  - Eight community engagement accomplishments
  - Four committee development accomplishments
  - 12 key RESJ conversations with elected, agency, and community leaders
- The committee shared ideas and opportunities to pursue in 2023 including the following topics:
  - Women's reproductive health
  - Increased engagement with the LGBTQ+ community
  - Better/improved community engagement
  - Invite the police chief to discuss reform
  - Education

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

- Selena Mendy Singleton noted there was a discussion with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) infant and maternal mortality teams and DHHS will send a letter to the County Executive sharing their issues and concerns.
- Selena Mendy Singleton and Pat Grant reminded the committee of the upcoming October 27 virtual town hall on fetal and infant mortality. They noted they will share more information on the event following the meeting.
- Zola Shaw proposed organizing a RESJAC outing in the upcoming months; Jordan Neal noted she wanted to help organize the outing.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm by Chair Shaw.