RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 (6:30 PM)
MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

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

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Tiffany Ward

Absent: Tasnuva Khan, Sylvia Hernandez

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

AGENDA
No objections or additions.

MINUTES
No objections or additions.
  • January 17 meeting minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS
Item: April 19-21 GARE Conference
Discussion Highlights:
  • Tiffany Ward reported on the Government Alliance on Race and Equity’s (GARE) National Convening.
  • Committee members are invited to participate in the GARE National Convening taking place on April 19-21.
  • The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice will pay for the virtual attendance of members.
  • The theme of the convening is Re-imagining Government for Racial Equity.
  • Tiffany Ward asked interested members to email her.
No motions or votes taken.

Item: RESJAC Retreat II
Discussion Highlights:
  • Tiffany Ward will reach out to Shane Lloyd, Selena Mendy Singleton, Jim Stowe, Pat Grant, Jordan Neal, Izola Shaw, and Isaac Cudjoe to set up a planning meeting for the RESJAC spring re-treat.
No motions or votes taken.
**Item:** Review public statement condemning hate speech

**Discussion Highlights:**
- Shane Lloyd led a discussion to review the draft RESJAC statement to condemn hate speech.

**Action:** Jared Hautamaki moved to adopt the statement condemning hate speech. Izola Shaw and Shuo Huang seconded.

The vote was unanimous. The following members voted to adopt the statement: Izola Shaw, Shane Lloyd, Selena Mendy Singleton, Isaac Cudjoe, Shuo Huang, Jared Hautamaki, Willie Parker-Loan, Betty Lam, Partap Verma, Sonia Canzater, Jordan Neal, Pat Grant, Jim Stowe, Gustavo Torres.

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**RENTAL RELIEF PROGRAM DISCUSSION**

**Discussion Highlights:**
- Ms. Amanda Harris, Chief of Services to End & Prevent Homelessness, MCDHHS, presented and led a discussion on the County’s COVID 19 Rental Relief Program.
- Ms. Harris talked about how the criteria for receiving COVID relief rental funds including income requirements and targeted zip codes; immigration status is not considered when applying or receiving rental assistance.
- Ms. Harris outlined the application process and the steps needed to complete the process and the timeline of when residents should receive funds.
- Ms. Harris remarked that the program will receive less funding for the upcoming fourth round than the previous rounds.
- Ms. Harris pledged to work with committee members who have knowledge of particular cases that have been delayed or who have not received funds despite a viable application.

No motions or votes taken.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Item:** Reparations Discussion

**Discussion Highlights:**
- Shane Lloyd led a discussion on reparations for Black people in Montgomery County.
- Shane Lloyd suggested the committee look at how other jurisdictions that have implemented a form of reparations.
- Committee members suggested that we work to educate Montgomery County constituents.
- Committee members suggested we get a clear definition of reparations before proceeding. Shane agreed to create a memo with the definition of reparations from leading expert William “Sandy” Darity, PhD.
- The committee agreed to creating a reparations subcommittee; the following members expressed interest in joining the subcommittee: Shane Lloyd, Izola Shaw, Shuo Huang, Pat Grant, Partap Verma.

No motions or votes taken.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Jim Stowe announced the Feb 18 Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things: For the Fight for Freedom event at the Strathmore.
- Partap Verma announced that the Parks Department will host several Black History Month family events. For details check the Parks Department online calendar.

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**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm by Chair Shaw.