



RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022 (6:30PM)  
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, Sylvia Hernandez, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Jordan Neal, Willie Parker-Loan, Jim Stowe, Gustavo Torres,

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

**Absent:** Shuo Huang, Partap Verma

**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 to the May 18, 2022, Minutes and they were approved.
- The committee voted to edit the previously approved April 27, 2022, minutes by removing John Landesman's name from the "Committee Members" in the attendance list. John Landesman was later confirmed as a member on June 21, 2022.

**CASA OVERVIEW PRESENTATION**

Provided an overview of CASA and current projects (Gustavo Torres and Alonzo Washington)

- Gustavo Torres, Executive Director of CASA, President of CASA in Action (CASA's sister organization) and RESJAC member, introduced Alonzo Washington, CASA in Action's Executive Director and Chief of Racial Equity and Inclusion.
- Alonzo Washington presented on CASA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Journey.
- CASA hosted anti-racism training for all employees, their boards, and their leadership Council in October 2021, they also hosted special anti-racism trainings for white staff members and one special training on Latino challenges focused on dismantling anti-Blackness.
- CASA also launched specific programs focused on Black member engagement and established affinity groups for Black (Black@CASA) and LGBTQ+ staff (LGBTQ+ Committee).
- The Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office advances five aims within CASA: 1) Spearheads organization's DEI strategy; 2) promotes equity and cultural sensitivity; 3) identifies best practices; 4) identifies short- and long-term strategies; and, 5) formulates

policies that promote Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI), nullifies policies that undermine DEI and harms DEI initiatives, and updates policies to meet DEI goals.

- CASA aims to conduct a DEI Audit later in 2022 to further clarify the organization's current state in the pursuit of racial equity and identify opportunities for improvement.

## **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

- Community Forum Planning Updates (Isaac Cudjoe)
  - Isaac Cudjoe shared updates on the schedule for the Community Forum, encouraged committee members to promote the Community Forum through their networks, and volunteer to promote the forum at the upcoming Juneteenth Celebration event.
- RESJAC Retreat II Brief (Zola Shaw and Shane Lloyd)
  - Subcommittee three-month plans (RESJAC Subcommittee chairs and leads)
    - Health, Public Safety, and Immigration Subcommittee (Jordan Neal)
      - The health subcommittee will be focusing on women's reproductive health including supporting the County Executive and County Council in their efforts regarding access to birth control, abortion services, emergency contraceptives, maternal and infant health and mortality. Committee members interested in joining the health subcommittee were asked to reach out to Jordan Neal and Shuo Huang.
    - Communications and Outreach Subcommittee (Zola Shaw)
      - The communications and outreach subcommittee is continuing to work with the larger committee to implement a community forum to receive feedback on important issues from community members. The subcommittee also plans to capture feedback in a report to further inform the committee's decision-making process. The subcommittee also plans to update the RESJAC website.
    - Reparations Subcommittee (Shane Lloyd)
      - The reparations subcommittee has not had a meeting recently, but the group outlined the definition of reparations and an 80-step process for achieving reparations. In the upcoming Community Forum, there will be a special session on reparations with Kirsten Mullen and William "Sandy" Darity.
  - The committee agreed to post the Retreat II agenda to the RESJAC website.
- Changing the name of Maryland Route 210 located in Prince George's County to Piscataway Highway (Jared Hautamaki)
  - Jared Hautamaki provided the committee with background on the conversation to change the name of Maryland Route 210 ("Indian Head Highway"). HB 1433, sponsored by Del. Jay Walker (D-District 26) and signed into law in April 2022, designated the Maryland Route 210, as the "Piscataway Highway". "Designate" was written in the bill and is different from an official name change. Although the highway will receive two new signs in October, without an official name change the legislation does not require name modifications to maps, addresses and GPS. Additionally, it was noted that the bill does not have widespread support among Piscataway tribal leaders and members. The committee agreed to do more research to better understand how they could contribute to the conversation.
  - A meeting attendee mentioned that the Montrose Parkway became the Josiah Henson Parkway through a different naming process.

- Thrive 2050 updates (Selena Mendy Singleton)
  - The County Council selected Nspiregreen as the consultant to provide focused outreach to BIPOC and low-income communities to receive input on Thrive provide recommendations to revise the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (“PHED”) Committee Draft to Thrive Montgomery 2050, and draft additional chapters. The Council will be briefed about this on Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANTIRACIST SYSTEM AUDIT**

MCPS Antiracist system audit presentation (John Landesman)

- In 2022, Montgomery County Public Schools embarked on an Antiracist System Audit designed to conduct a comprehensive and district-wide review of MCPS’s practices and policies.
- The multi-phase process will gather feedback from a broad set of stakeholders and clarify the impact of racism on 6 areas of MCPS operations: workforce diversity, work conditions, Pre-K equity curriculum, equity achievement, community relations and engagement, and evaluation and school cultures.
- Since the presentation started later than scheduled in the agenda, the remaining content from the presentation will be covered in a future session.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

- Director Jim Stowe announced the upcoming Juneteenth Celebration
  - Zola Shaw sent out an email a week earlier providing information on the Juneteenth Celebration and requested volunteers to promote the community forum at the event.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm by Chair Shaw.