



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 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, Sylvia Hernandez, Shuo Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Jordan Neal

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

**Absent:** Willie Parker-Loan, John Landsman, Jim Stowe, Gustavo Torres

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**AGENDA**

No objections or additions.

**MINUTES**

- June 15, 2022, minutes approved
- July 7, 2022, special meeting minutes approved

**PANEL DISCUSSION ON MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY**

**Item:** Panel discussion moderated by Selena Mendy Singleton

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services presentation by Dr. Christopher Rogers, Dr. Raymond Crowel, and Becky Smith

Discussion Highlights:

- The County had an overall decreasing trend in the percentage of births with late or no prenatal care; the County percentage is consistently lower than that in Maryland.
- Low birth weight in the County (7.5%) has been consistently lower than that in Maryland (8.7%); Non-Hispanic Blacks had the highest percentage
- The infant mortality rate in the County (4.2/1000 live births) is consistently lower than that in Maryland (5.9/1,000 live births); Non-Hispanic Blacks had the highest rates.
- In Montgomery County's Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic populations are disproportionately affected by maternal morbidity. Our non-Hispanic Black population had a maternal morbidity rate that is 60% times higher than their non-Hispanic White

counterparts. Our Hispanic population has maternal morbidity that is 45% higher than their non-Hispanic White counterpart.

Fetal & Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Board & Community Action Team (CAT) presentation by Dr. Monica Howard, and Pat Keating, Co-Chairs, Montgomery County FIMR Community Action Team

Discussion Highlights:

- While recent numbers indicate a one-year improvement in racial disparities in infant mortality, national rates for Black/African American women have consistently been 2-3 times higher than for Whites, a disparity also seen in Montgomery County.
- This disparity persists across all income and education groups in Montgomery County's Black/African American population. Highly educated, high-income Black/African American women have higher infant mortality rates than low-income, less educated White women.
- FIMR Board recommendations include:
  - Promote Awareness of Racial Disparities In Fetal /Infant Mortality
  - Improve Continuity of Care & Expand Nurse Case Management
  - Promote Patient Empowerment & Health Education
  - Expand/grow the capacity of the African American Health Program and Babies Born Healthy
  - Increase the number of lactation consultants

## **RENT STABILIZATION DISCUSSION**

Item: Zola Shaw led a discussion on rent stabilization and presented the issue identification checklist

Discussion Highlights:

- Zola Shaw shared that several community members reached out to RESJAC members on Bill 22-22 for temporary rent stabilization.
  - Bill 22-22E, Landlord-Tenant Relations - Limitations on Rent Increases. Effective on the date that Expedited Bill 22-22 becomes law – and for 6 months thereafter – any notices of rent increases in the County would be limited to no more than 4.4%. During the 6 months, a landlord within the County would be precluded from notifying a tenant of a rent increase that exceeds 4.4%. As a result, rent increases of more than 4.4% would be precluded for 9 months after the bill's effective date (since landlords in the County must give 90-days advance notice of a rent increase).
- The committee discussed the potential impact on both renters and small landlords.

Action: Chair Shaw moved that the committee support Expedited Bill 22-22; Shuo Huang seconded. Committee passed it unanimously.

Action: Chair Shaw moved to approve that RESJAC submits a letter supporting Expedited Bill 22-22; Shane Lloyd seconded. Committee members voted in favor of the letter: Zola Shaw, Shane Lloyd, Selena Mendy Singleton, Sonia Canzater, Isaac Cudjoe, Sylvia Hernandez, Shuo Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Jordan Neal, Pat Grant; Committee members voted against the letter: Jared Hautamaki

Action: Chair Shaw moved to approve that RESJAC provides testimony on Bill 22-22 during the July 26 hearing; Selena Mendy Singleton seconded. Committee members voted in favor of providing testimony: Zola Shaw, Shane Lloyd, Selena Mendy Singleton, Sonia Canzater, Isaac Cudjoe, Sylvia Hernandez, Shuo Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Jordan Neal, Pat Grant; Committee members voted against the letter: Jared Hautamaki

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm by Chair Shaw.