



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, January 18, 2023 (6:30 P.M.)
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES:

NOTE: Checked boxes indicate present. Unchecked boxes indicate absence.

Community Members:

Shane Lloyd (Chair) Jared Hautmamaki (Vice Chair) Izola Shaw (Zola) (Second Vice Chair) Sonia Canzater Isaac Cudjoe Pat Grant Shuo Huang Tasnuva Khan
 Jordan Neal Gustavo Torres

County Staff Members:

Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian) Anthony R Alston Sylvia Hernandez
 Betty Lam Willie Parker Loan James Stowe

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff:

Tiffany Ward Jeanette Rojas

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Lloyd.

AGENDA

- No objections.

MINUTES

- December 7, 2022, minutes were approved.

BRAINSTORMING REVISIONS TO THE RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACT ([BILL 27-19](#))

Item: Open discussion about how to measure the success of RESJAC's efforts year over year

- Selena Singleton provides an overview of the research she conducted on Bill 27-19. Of note is that over the course of the revision process, the definition of social justice was ultimately included in the legislation, but the definition of racial equity was left out.
- The omission was likely due to editing to make sure the references for Racial Equity and Social Justice were consistent throughout the legislation.

- Selena Singleton and Tiffany Ward mention that despite the definition of racial equity not being included in the legislation, they use a consistent definition of racial equity in their presentations.
- Tiffany Ward explained that the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice also uses the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) framework for racial equity to systemically reduce and eliminate racial inequities in government: normalizing, organizing, and operationalizing.
- Pat Grant affirms that as long as a consistent definition of racial equity is used in the presentation then that's what's most important.
- In the original legislation, a seat on the committee was designed for the Housing Opportunity Commission (HOC) but there was no explanation for why that seat was not filled.
- Tiffany Ward explained that according to the County attorneys, the County office slots on the committee were up to the discretion of the County Executive.
- Community members lobbied to have a representative from the Office of Human Rights on the RESJAC board, so the CE granted that request and included a rep from Human Rights in lieu of a rep from HOC

Item: Shane kicked off the brainstorming session using Slido.

- Gustavo Torres suggested that we have a representative of the Office of Management and Budget come to talk to RESJAC about racial equity being incorporated into the budget process.
- Alternatively, Tiffany Ward noted that she or a member of her policy team could deliver that presentation.

Item: Pat Grant leads a discussion about the racial equity definition.

- Betty Lam identifies that the definition of racial equity was included in early drafts of the legislation.
- Tiffany Ward and Selena Singleton stated the current working definition of racial equity and how it is being embedded in the work throughout the County.
- Tiffany Ward suggests that the reason the working definition of racial equity was removed could have been a decision by the prior County Attorney.
- Gustavo Torres asked that the group focus on implementation.
- Jared Hautamaki suggested that we consider changing the legislation so that Directors are required to give the committee an update on how racial equity is being embedded in their department's work.

Item: Shane kicked off a discussion on how the committee can continue engaging the community.

- Isaac Cudjoe suggests having standard talking points the committee can use as they are attending and participating in various county or community events. The talking points would be used to engage with the community and help spark interest in the work and the committee.
- Tiffany Ward spoke about the regulations and the community engagement continuum and the need to have County employees and the Department understand where their work falls on

that spectrum and how to get to the last rung of co-creating programs and policies with the community.

- Zola Shaw and Tasnuva Khan described the work they are doing with DEP on the Climate change initiative as an example of co-creation with the community.

Item: Discussion of the committee's roles and duties

- Zola Shaw offered a definition of advocacy that operates along a continuum ranging from inform to consult to involve collaborating to empower.
- Selena Singleton talked about her experience on the Hill and how advocacy works there.
- Jared Hautamaki expressed that he would like a more formal way for the committee to advise the County Council and the County Executive.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Chair Lloyd shared that he and Sonia Canzater had an opportunity to connect with the Chair of the State of California Reparations Task Force Chair, Kamilah Moore, and learned a lot about how they approached the effort and where they intend to go as they close out the effort in the Summer of 2023.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- Governor Wes Moore announced that the application for Maryland Boards and Commissions was live. Interested Marylanders could apply by Friday, January 27 at 5 pm using this link: bit.ly/board_commissioned.
- Leadership Montgomery announced that they have now opened up applications for several of their leadership programs. Applications are due by Thursday, April 23, 2023. Applications can be found [here](#).

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.