



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 (6:30 P.M.)**

MINUTES

Meeting Location – Virtual Only

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87993141689?pwd=HjVRreECtgZWey5K5Q7Q91bUaaFtp9.1>

Meeting ID: 879 9314 1689

Passcode: 313370

6:30 p.m. Call to Order

Attendance

Members Present (Remote)

- Ilana. Branda
- Sonia Canzater
- Isaac Cudjoe
- Patricia Grant
- Kathy Guevara
- Tasnuva Khan
- Shane Lloyd
- Akufuna Ngonda
- Oneil Ormsby
- Dourakine Rosarion
- Selena Mendy Singleton
- Judith Thomas

Members Not Present

- Jim Stowe

Proof of Quorum

Note: Eight members are required for a quorum to be present.

Staff Present

- Tiffany Ward
- Andrea Gardner
- Harriet Shangarai Host)

Guests Present

- None

Handouts

- December 10, 2025, Agenda
- November 19, 2025, Draft Minutes

Meeting Minutes Agenda Items

6:45 p.m. **PRESENTATION** – Recommendations from the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB)

- Tiffany Ward, Director of the Office of Racial Equity (ORESJ) will provide details on the Final Report of the Committee Evaluation and Review Board and its recommendations for RESJAC.

T. Ward provided an overview of the report's findings.

- 300+ BCCs in Montgomery County
 - Consolidation, streamlining, and standardization of practices are recommended.
 - Eleven BCCs recommended discontinuation or absorption with another body.
 - No changes recommended for the RESJAC committee
- The report will be shared with the committee.
 - Mid-February session with the full Montgomery County Council to occur re: the report.

Questions/comments from the membership:

Q: Will this committee grow or absorb the work of other boards as a result of these findings?

- The report does not appear to recommend this action. RESJAC was created via specific legislation. Amending the legislation would be needed for this to occur.
- Interest in potentially absorbing other boards raised.
- T. Ward: unsure how this could be achieved. Discussion with Central staff would be required.
- T. Ward to follow up with Central staff to present the questions raised during today's meeting.

7:15 p.m. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

7:20 p.m. **NEW BUSINESS**

- Recognition of new RESJAC committee member: Kathy Guevara (MC Department of Corrections).
- Dr. Pat Grant, Chair, RESJAC, and Judith Thomas-Mayorga, Lead RESJAC Elections Committee, will review the proposed roles and responsibilities for the following positions for 2026:
 - Co-Chair, Policy and Law (new position)
 - Co-Chair, Community Organizing and Community Relations (new position)
 - Vice Chair (revised position)
- Open discussion regarding new committee structure.
 - The inclusion of the perspective of the lived experience is important to the efforts of this body.
 - RESJAC is one of the limited number of BCCs in Montgomery County that provides compensation for those serving in leadership roles.
 - The existing structure disincentivizes people to seek leadership roles, given the workload. Chairs of BCCs have more responsibilities than the other leadership roles.
 - The RESJAC roles/structure will be effective for the calendar year 2026. An alternate structure may be applied in subsequent years.
- Judith Thomas-Mayorga, Lead for the RESJAC Election Committee, and Dr. Pat Grant will review the guidelines for the process to elect the proposed slate for the RESJAC officers for 2026.
- RESJAC members will vote in the election for new 2026 RESJAC Officers:
 - Co-Chair, Policy and Law
 - Co-Chair, Organizing and Community Relations
 - Vice Chair
 - Parliamentarian
 - Secretary (role approved during the November 2025 RESJAC meeting)
- J. Thomas-Mayorga provided a detailed overview of the leadership roles proposed for 2026.
- Discussion re: Co-Chair name change: from Co-Chair, Policy and Law to Co-Chair, Policy.
- Discussion re: changes to the duties of the Vice Chair.

Motion raised by J. Thomas-Mayorga to rename the Co-Chair, Policy and Law position to Co-Chair, Policy, and create the Vice Chair and Co-Chair positions.

Motion Seconded by S. Canzater

Motion later rescinded by J. Thomas-Mayorga

Motion raised by S. Canzater to approve the positions as originally described.

Motion later withdrawn by S. Canzater.

Motion raised by S. Canzater to approve the new roles (Co-Chair Policy, Co-Chair

- Organizing and Community Relations, and the changes to the Vice Chair's duties.

Motion seconded by J. Thomas-Mayorga

Motion approved by the RESJAC committee

- J. Thomas-Mayorga provided an overview of how the voting process will occur for the leadership positions.

Candidate Roster

Co-Chair, Policy: Sonia Canzater

Co-Chair, Organizing and Community Relations: Tasnuva Khan

Vice-Chair: Akufuna Ngonda

Secretary: Ilana Branda

Parliamentarian role: no candidates

- Each candidate was given 2 minutes to state their interest in serving in a leadership role.

Speaking order

1. Sonia Canzater
2. Tasnuva Khan
3. Akufuna Ngonda
4. Ilana Branda

- Vote conducted. Results as follows:
 1. Co-Chair, Policy candidate: Sonia Canzater (Aye: 11 | Abstained: 1)
 2. Co-Chair, Organizing and Community Relations candidate: Tasnuva Khan (Aye: 11 | Abstained: 1)
 3. Vice-Chair candidate Akufuna Ngonda (Aye: 11 | Abstained: 1)
 4. Secretary candidate: Ilana Branda (Aye: 11 | Abstained: 1)
 5. Parliamentarian role: no candidates

- A leadership transition meeting with the newly elected members will occur prior to the February 2026 meeting to include P. Grant.

8:15 p.m. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

- Any announcements will be shared.
- Branda: The Emory Grove Taskforce will brief the County Council's Planning, Housing, Parks Committee on February 23rd at 1:30 pm. The final report is due by December 2026.
- Planning Board recommended adding the Rose-Budd House to Montgomery County's Historic Preservation list. Full council presentation scheduled for 2/24/2026.
- The Unmasked ICE and Values Act was presented at the County Council on 1/20/26.
- T. Khan: Events in recognition of Muslim American Heritage Month (January) have occurred. Upcoming events will be shared with this committee. Additionally, events in recognition of Black History Month (February) will be shared.

8:20 p.m. **ADJOURN**

- Meeting adjourned