



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Christine Wellons, Senior Legislative Attorney
Purpose: Final action – vote expected

CORRECTED
AGENDA ITEM #3D
June 27, 2023
Action

SUBJECT

Resolution Appointing a Montgomery County Anti-Hate Task Force

Lead Sponsor: Council President Glass

Co-Sponsors: Council Vice-President Friedson and Councilmembers Fani-González, Sayles, Albornoz, Luedtke, Balcombe, Stewart, Mink, Jawando, and Katz

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

N/A

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Vote on a resolution to appoint an anti-hate task force.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Montgomery County Anti-Hate Task Force would be a temporary task force charged with making recommendations to the County Council regarding policies to address the urgent problem of hate crimes in the County.

This report contains:

Resolution

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council President Evan Glass
Co-Sponsors: Council Vice-President Friedson and Councilmembers Fani-González, Sayles, Albornoz, Luedtke, Balcombe, Stewart, Mink, Jawando, and Katz

SUBJECT: Appointing a Montgomery County Anti-Hate Task Force

Background

1. The rise in racial, ethnic and LGBTQ+ hate crimes in Montgomery County is disturbing and frightening. Crimes against people simply because of their identity is unacceptable. All residents should feel a sense of inclusion and connection, not alienation, when they work, learn, and travel around our beautifully diverse community.
2. Hate crimes reported to the FBI by law enforcement agencies rose from more than 8,000 in 2020 to nearly 11,000 the following year. According to the 2020 FBI Hate Crimes Statistics, hate crimes and incidents against Black and African American, Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and Sikhs more than doubled. Incidents related to gender and gender identity increased since 2019, including an increase of 41% in anti-transgender incidents.
3. There are over 1 million residents in Montgomery County with more than half identifying as non-white and one in three being foreign born. According to the MCPD Annual Bias Report, in 2022, 91% of incidents motivated by bias towards religion were considered anti-Jewish; 74% of incidents motivated by bias towards race were considered anti-Black and 12% were anti-Asian; and 40% of the incidents motivated by ethnicity bias were anti-Latino/Hispanic. Further, race and religion continue to be the primary bias motivators, followed by sexual orientation and gender bias.
4. We must end the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law.
5. The Montgomery County Anti-Hate Task Force will prioritize policies that promote safety and combat hate crimes and incidents against BIPOC constituents, and policies that combat racism, which can include hate against Black and African American, Asian American and

Pacific Islander, Latino/Hispanic, Jewish, Muslim, immigrant and LGBTQ+ individuals or other communities.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The County Council appoints an Anti-Hate Task Force.
2. The Task Force will include the following members, who are residents of the County and who reflect our diverse communities, including our Black and African American, Latino and Hispanic, Asian American Pacific Islander, LGBTQ+, Jewish and Muslim communities:
 - Ali K. C. Bell;
 - Rev. James Boney;
 - Dr. Ilhan Cagri;
 - Danny Centeno;
 - Hoan Dang;
 - Jacqueline Dennard;
 - Phillip Alexander Downie;
 - Ron Halber;
 - Joseph Hooks;
 - Firdaus Kadir;
 - Ambereen Khan;
 - Tiffany Kelly;
 - Imam Faizul Khan;
 - Jeff Le;
 - Nora Morales;
 - Aryani Ong;
 - Dr. Rubén Meana-Pañeda;
 - Vanessa Pinto;
 - Mei Yeh Powers;
 - Alan Ronkin;
 - Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser;
 - Naznin Saifi;
 - Rabbi Susan N. Shankman;
 - Adileh Sharieff;
 - Alec Stone;
 - Lisa Taylor;
 - Vanessa Til;
 - Alex Vazquez;
 - Meredith Weisel; and
 - Ronald Wright.

3. The Task Force will include the following ex-officio members:
 - County Council President or their designee;
 - County Executive or their designee;
 - State's Attorney or their designee;
 - Montgomery County Office of Human Rights Director or their designee;
 - Montgomery County Police Department Chief or their designee;
 - Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent or their designee; and
 - Montgomery College President or their designee.
4. The Task Force consists of six cohorts, with four to five members assigned to each cohort. Each cohort will focus on the unique experiences of the Black and African American, Latino/Hispanic, AAPI, LGBTQ+, Jewish or Muslim communities within the County.
5. Each cohort must designate a cohort chair and will meet at the call of the cohort chair.
6. Meetings of the Task Force must comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.
7. The Council will provide staff support for the Task Force.
8. The Task Force must submit and present its final report, with any recommendations for legislation, regulations, policies, and procedures, to the Council not later than November 28, 2023. Each recommendation must include the rationale.
9. The term of the Task Force expires once the report is submitted and presented.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council