MEMORANDUM

November 2, 2023

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
         Office of Management and Budget

From: Tiffany Ward, Director
         Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation #24-35
         FY24 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Office of Emergency
         Management and Homeland Security Nonprofit Security Grant Program, $100,000

I.   **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that the ability of *Supplemental Appropriation #24-35 FY24 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Nonprofit Security Grant Program* to advance equitable outcomes for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) who reside in the County is inconclusive. Based on the information accompanying this supplemental request, it is unclear which nonprofit organizations stand to benefit most from this funding opportunity, as specific details were not provided. Specifically, a statement outlining how the grant program will be advertised (particularly in a manner that focuses on those with the greatest demonstrated need) and how the distribution of such funding will be prioritized amongst those who apply was not referenced.

II. **BACKGROUND:** *Supplemental Appropriation #24-35 FY24 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Nonprofit Security Grant* aims to fund additional security measures throughout the community to combat hate crimes. This funding mirrors efforts at the Federal level that aim to strengthen diverse communities by preventing, protecting against, and responding to would-be terrorist

attacks.[1, 2]

While the County Council's FY24 Approved Budget (Resolution 20-184[3]) provides
$900,000 to nonprofit and faith-based organizations at high risk of experiencing bias and
hate crimes, FY23 requests outweighed available resources. In anticipation of increased
demands for such funding measures – mainly due to recent global events and increased
hate and bias events domestically – the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland
Security requests an additional $100,000 to meet rising community needs.

III. **ANALYSIS:** According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) recently released
2022 Hate Crimes Statistics report[4], hate crimes increased between 2021 and 2022[5]. Notably,
hate crimes rooted in race, ethnicity, or ancestry were the most common at 56.43%[6], with
anti-Black or African American incidents being more than three times higher than the next
highest racial or ethnic category at 29%. Hate crimes and bias rooted in religion were the
second most common at 17.55%, with anti-Jewish incidents accounting for 10% of
incidents reported.[7] It is worth noting that due to historical mistrust of authorities and
systems, vulnerable communities are often hesitant to report hate crimes and incidents of
bias, thus leading to gross underreporting of such crimes.[8] Despite this, marginalized
groups, particularly those identified as BIPOC, continue to experience incidences of bias
and hate disproportionately.

Hate and bias incidents in Montgomery County are reflective of national statistics, with
46% of occurrences being rooted in race or ethnicity and 40% being rooted in religion. The
chart below breaks down this County-level data.

---

[1] https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/homeland-security/fy-23-nofo
[2] https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/07/21/dhs-announces-funding-allocations-fy-2023-preparedness-grants
[3] https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=11869_1_25039_Resolution_20-184_Adopted_20230525.pdf
[4] https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-2022-crime-in-the-nation-statistics
[5] https://www.justice.gov/crs/highlights/2022-hate-crime-statistics#:~:text=Increase%20in%20Hate%20Crimes%3A%20The,6%2C557%20reported%20incidents%20in%202022.
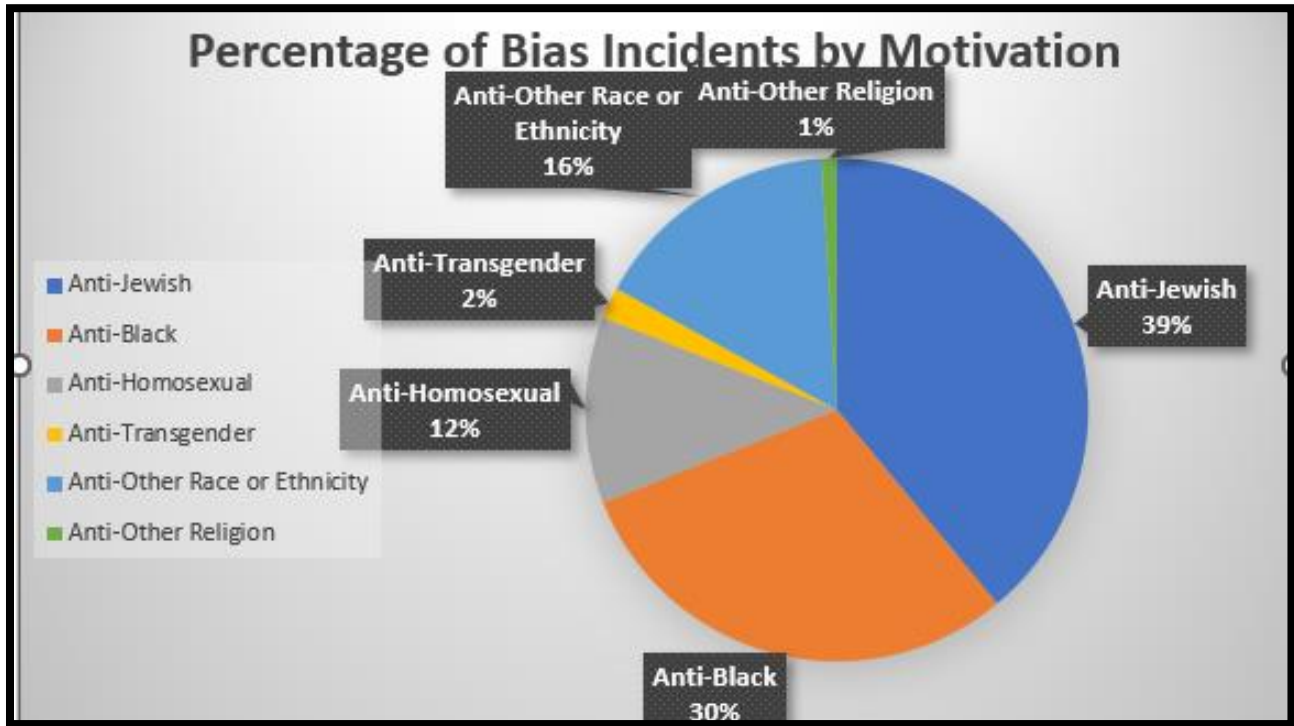[6] https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime
[7] https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime
[8] https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/using-research-improve-hate-crime-reporting-and-identification

*dataMontgomery Percentage of Bias Incidents by Motivation in Montgomery County, MD
https://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/Public-Safety/Percentage-of-Bias-Incidents-by-Motivation/pmg3-ihq8

To ensure those with the most significant demonstrated need benefit from the increased safety opportunities this supplemental request offers, available data should be used to guide equitable distribution of these funds. In addition to prioritizing resource distribution based on identified needs, efforts should be made to ensure funds primarily aim to serve areas in which hate and bias crimes are most likely to occur. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, hate crime incidents were more likely to occur in or near residences/homes (at a rate of 26.8%), followed by on highways/roads/alleys/streets/sidewalks (at 15.7%), and at schools/colleges (at 10.2%).[9]

The County must strive to continue to meet the needs of the particular communities[10] prioritized in its latest round of Nonprofit Security Grant funding. Additionally, the primary mechanism for distributing these funds will be through grants, referencing previous REIAs regarding inequities in grant distribution that disproportionately affect communities of color, and non-profits helmed by, or primarily serving, BIPOC communities are advised.

---

[9] https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics
[10]
https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=44205#:~:text=Montgomery%20County%20Executive%20Marc%20Elrich,Zoroastrian%20communities%20in%20Montgomery%20County.

The REIAs referenced below also highlight the need for transparency regarding the selection process to receive such funds.

1. REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #23-13FY23 Capital Budget Cost Sharing MCG CIP No.720601
    https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-13.pdf

2. REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #24-2 FY24 Operating Budget of Montgomery County Government: County Executive, $198,594 Community Use of Public Facilities, $60,000 And Department of Health and Human Services, $20,00 Summer and After School Youth Safety Program ($278,594)
    https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-2.pdf

3. REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #24-1 FY24 Operating Budget of Montgomery County Government Community Grants – NDA Non-Profit Technical Assistance and Management Support Grants, and Underserved Communities Projects Grants $1,500,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)
    https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-1.pdf

cc: Luke J. Hodgson, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
        Ken Hartman, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive