

Howard County Council

Racial Equity Task Force



Meeting: Legislative Process Subgroup Meeting

Start Time: January 11, 2021, 2020 4:02 p.m.

End Time: January 11, 2021 5:50 p.m.

Task Force Members:

Rashida George
Kathryn Valentine
Lucas de Melo
Allyson Owens
Dana Davenport
Beth Hufnagel
Laura Mettle
David Koralov
Bruce Nelson (absent)

Council and Facilitator Attendees:

Karla Morrison-Brooks
Colette Gelwicks
Felix Facchine
Jeff Meyers

Approved Minutes:

Ms. Rashida George, Subgroup Chairperson, opened the meeting with a roll call and confirmed that a quorum of subgroup members was present. Ms. George moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Legislative Process Subgroup Meeting on December 14, 2020. Ms. Dana Davenport, Task Force member, seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the subgroup members.

After a brief check-in, two speakers who had been invited to the subgroup meeting were given an opportunity to present information. Mr. Theo Wimberley, Acting Administrator of the Howard County Council, spoke to the subgroup about the Council's legislative process. He described the monthly legislative cycle, sharing how an idea becomes legislation and the steps the legislation goes through until it is voted on by the Howard County Council. After Mr. Wimberley's presentation, subgroup members asked for some clarification related to various topics, including public engagement and legislative analyses.

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Racial-Equity-Task-Force](https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/About-Us/Commissions-Task-Forces-and-Special-Reports/Racial-Equity-Task-Force)

Mr. Craig Glendenning, Howard County Auditor, provided an overview of the annual budget process and described the Council's authority as it relates to the budget. He responded to questions from members who asked for additional details.

After hearing from the two speakers, Ms. George invited subgroup members to share updates on the research they had volunteered to work on in the last meeting. Ms. Laura Mettle, Task Force member, shared some research results related to the budget. Ms. Davenport described some of the research she had been doing on the origins and history of the County and the Council. Ms. George and Ms. Allyson Owens, Task Force member, had volunteered to investigate the public engagement process and shared that they had been looking at the Council website.

Ms. Karla Morrison-Brooks, Facilitator, asked subgroup members to consider whether there were any additional areas they would be interested in learning more about. In addition to the issue areas already being investigated (public engagement, origins/history, budget), subgroup members expressed an interest in learning more about equity impact analyses of legislation. Ms. Mettle offered to take point on this issue and would work with Ms. Valentine to schedule meetings with the Office of Human Rights and Equity and the Department of Community Resources and Services to discuss their equity policies and processes. Ms. Davenport asked whether someone could speak to the subgroup from another jurisdiction that is creating legislative racial equity analyses.

The WebEx platform experienced unexpected technical issues and the meeting ended abruptly at 5:50 p.m.