

Howard County Council

Racial Equity Task Force



Meeting: Public Health and Environmental Policy Subgroup Meeting

Start Time: May 19, 2021 6:03 PM

End Time: May 19, 2021 7:55 PM

Task Force Member Attendees:

Yvonne Commodore-Mensah	Delora Ifekauche
Buffy Illum	Nia Leak
Myiesha Padder	Yvette Oquendo
Paula Goodwin	Michael Allen (absent)
Jean Silver-Isenstadt	Chiara D'Amore (absent)

Council and Facilitator Attendees:

Karla Morrison-Brooks, Groundwork Partners
Colette Gelwicks, County Council
Brenda Smith, County Council

Materials:

[Agenda](#)

Approved Minutes:

Dr. Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, Subgroup Chairperson, opened the meeting with a roll call and confirmed that a quorum of subgroup members was present. Dr. Commodore-Mensah moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Public Health and Environmental Policy Subgroup Meeting on April 21, 2021. Jean Silver-Isenstadt, Task Force member, seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved. Dr. Commodore-Mensah then made a motion to approve the minutes of the Racial Equity Task Force public hearings and kick-off meeting. Yvette Quendo, Task Force member, seconded the whole task force meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Dr. Commodore-Mensah asked members to share their thoughts on the Racial Equity Task Force's May 6th public hearing. Subgroup members shared topics that stood out to them, including school resource officers and various perspectives on specific issues.

Karla Morrison-Brooks, Facilitator, asked subgroup members to share their thoughts on developing the recommendations for the public hearing. Subgroup members shared challenges, including time limitations, limited support, and lack of knowledge around the Council's legislative authority. Ms. Morrison-Brooks then provided subgroup members with some final report guidance, including a detailed overview of the timeline of the next months with specific expectations and deadlines.

A working session commenced to review and refine the preliminary recommendations the group had collected so far. First, environmental policy recommendations were discussed. For each recommendation, Ms. Morrison-Brooks asked those presenting recommendations to share the data supporting the recommendation and the racial equity impact of the recommendation. Subgroup members provided feedback and recommendations that would make the recommendations stronger and clearer.

Following the discussion of the public health recommendations, the recommendations from the environmental policy group members were shared with subgroup members.

Dr. Commodore-Mensah thanked members of the subgroup for participating and adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.