

**Howard County Racial Equity Task Force**  
**Personal and Public Safety: Meet and Greet Minutes**

**Chair: Allison Sayers**

**Wednesday November 18, 2020 at 4:30 PM**

**Approved: 12/10/2020**

**Panelist present:** Allison Sayers, Eduardo Ribeiro, Jonathan Branch, Jumel Howard, Marcus Harris, Maya Carey, Rahel Petros, Rich Gibson, Zainab Chaudry, Councilmember Opel Jones, Councilmember Deb Jung, Karla Morrison-Brooks (Facilitator), Ashley Alston (D2), Michael Harris (D2), Camille Young (D2), Charity Respass (Council staff), Theo Wimberly (Council staff)

**Not Present:** Zikora Akanegbu; Augustin Bibum

**Opening:**

Charity Respass stated the meeting is being recorded.

Allison Sayers called the meeting to order and asked for brief introductions.

**Introductions:**

Allison Sayers – she/her/hers; lives in Columbia with her family; Deputy District Public Defender for Howard County; been a Public Defender since 2005; have not seen a lot of change since 2005 from the people charged, to how they are treated and that is troubling

Councilmember Opel Jones- provided a brief welcome and thank you to all serving on the subgroup.

Camille Young – she/her/hers; Intern for Dr. Jones; has been a dancer for 15 years

Councilmember Deb Jung – she/her/hers; Chair of Howard County Council; was a barmaid in London for her junior year

Ashley Alston – native of North Carolina; moved to Elkridge in June and excited to get to know all the faces that are part of the Task Force; District Aide to Dr. Jones of District 2

Eduardo Ribeiro – lives in Laurel for the past 5 years; Spanish medical interpreter; education and training anthropological linguistics and a proud immigrant; worked as an anthropologist in small tribes in the Amazon and ate “native” animals

Jonathan Branch – family has been in Columbia for 20 years; works as an RN; army veteran and works on the Veterans Commission, who is working on; after H.S. worked at the Richmond Coliseum and saw Elvis

Jumel Howard – he/him/his; family has lived here since it was the Howard district of Anne Arundel County; I am hoping to have the county not only acknowledge the achievements but also help highlight the short comings

Karla Morrison Brooks – she/her/hers; Facilitator; resident of Montgomery county in Takoma Park; spent a year in Burkina Faso, West Africa as a peace corps volunteer

Sheriff Marcus Harris – elected to the position in 2018; retired police detective and lived in Howard county for 20 years; involvement with the community; coached in Howard county for 12 years; created a Community Outreach section to be more in touch with the community and residents while bridging the gap

Maya Carey – they/them/theirs; Community Educator with HopeWorks of Howard County, for 3 years; born and raised in Howard County; identities forward mixed-race, non-binary, queer person and feels it is important to have that representation on this subgroup

Michael Harris – he/him/his; Special Assistant to Dr. Jones of District 2; provides resources and tools to ensure the Task Force is successful in their endeavor

Richard Gibson – father of 3; State Attorney for Howard County; prosecutor for 17 years; born and raised in the Bronx, New York and lived in Howard County for a decade; interested in the factual assessment and information to use that to determine changes that can be made; avid scuba diver

Rahel Petros– she/her/hers; sophomore at Duke University; attended Howard County Public Schools; executive director of HoCo for Justice; a bit hesitant at first because she had been involved in task force prior but did not see actual implementation, but glad to be a part of this Task Force to assist in creating change in the county; part of a multi-cultural dance group at Duke University

Zainab Chaudry - born and raised in Baltimore; social justice is her life; proud American Muslim and daughter of immigrants; lived in Howard County for 9 years before moving to Baltimore County; fun fact: ambidextrous

Theo Wimberly – staff to the County Council; help to draft the legislation; son just went away to college and it is just he and his daughter

### **Discussion: Monthly meeting, website and Vice Chair position**

Allison resumed the meeting agenda

Subgroup discussed what days and times are best for their schedule and it was decided to provide 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday after 7 PM and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month after 5 PM.

Eduardo – asked how to keep in touch with additional subgroup members; also asked about the Personal Interest statements in a PDF; it was shared the information is on the website, but staff would also find a way to break it down per subgroup

Michael Harris then moved the meeting to discuss the Vice Chair position. Karla Morrison Brooks, facilitator, stated she would support the chair and any others that at times may take on a leadership role. At the time of discussion, no members were prepared to take on the position, but left room for it to be a discussion in future meetings.

### **Closing:**

Allison closed the meeting out with no further questions and a reminder to all that the Kickoff meeting will be on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM.