

# Howard County Council

## Racial Equity Task Force



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**Meeting:** Public Health and Environmental Policy Subgroup Meeting

**Start Time:** April 21, 2021 6:04 PM

**End Time:** April 21, 2021 8:02 PM

**Task Force Member Attendees:**

Yvonne Commodore-Mensah	Michael Allen
Nia Leak	Myiesha Padder
Paula Goodwin	Delora Ifekauche (absent)
Jean Silver-Isenstadt	Chiara D'Amore (absent)
Yvette Oquendo	Buffy Illum (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. An announcement was made that TiQuoria Jackson has resigned from the Racial Equity Task Force for personal reasons. Dr. Commodore-Mensah moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Public Health and Environmental Policy Subgroup Meeting on March 17, 2021. Paula Goodwin, Task Force member, seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved, with one member abstaining.

Karla Morrison-Brooks, Facilitator, provided subgroup members with a detailed overview of the timeline of the next months, with specific expectations and deadlines, as the subgroups move towards the final recommendations and report for the County Council. Questions following the presentation revolved around the type of data that would be appropriate to justify the recommendations and how to incorporate other ideas. Dr. Jean Silver-Isenstadt, Task Force member, brought up the work happening under Dr. Denise Boston, Equity and Restorative Manager within the Howard County Government, and how the work of the Task Force may find a home with her. Ms. Morrison-Brooks provided additional details.

A working session commenced to review and refine the preliminary recommendations the group had collected so far. First, those who had worked on recommendations related to public health presented their recommendations and received feedback. Recommendations related to the topics of: women's health and maternal health, chronic diseases, and mental health.

Following the discussion of the public health recommendations, the recommendations from the environmental policy group members were shared with subgroup members. The recommendations included considering Health in All Policies, establishing a network of district based resident councils, expanding low-impact landscaping to include vegetable gardens, expanding the use of environmental justice mapping tools, and examining policies through an environmental justice lens.

Before the close of the meeting, Ms. Morrison-Brooks provided some more information on the upcoming public hearing on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Commodore-Mensah thanked members of the subgroup for participating and adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.