

# Howard County Council

## Racial Equity Task Force

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**Meeting:** Meet and Greet – Public Health and Environmental Policy Subgroup

**Start Time:** Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 5:35pm

**End Time:** Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:02pm

**Task Force Member Attendees:**

Yvonne Commodore-Mensah  
Chiara D’Amore  
Nia Leak  
Paula Goodwin  
Jean Silver-Isenstadt

Yvette Oquendo  
TiQuoria Jackson  
Delora Ifekauche  
Michael Allen  
Buffy Illum

**Council and Facilitator Attendees:**

Karla Morrison-Brooks  
Colette Gelwicks  
Theo Wimberly  
Charity Respass

**Agenda:**

- Introductions
  - “What do you love about Howard County?”
- Monthly Meeting Schedule
- Council website and Task Force email
- Upcoming Task Force Kickoff Meeting
- Next Steps and Closing

**Approved Minutes:**

Welcome by Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, Subgroup Chairperson. Ms. Commodore-Mensah facilitated introductions. The subgroup members and Council staff introduced themselves and shared information about their background, interests, and what they love about Howard County.

Colette Gelwicks, County Council staff, and Karla Morrison-Brooks, Groundwork facilitator, led a discussion on scheduling the Public Health and Environmental Policy subgroup’s regular monthly meeting for the duration of the Task Force. Ms. Gelwicks discussed the monthly cadence of Task Force work, including holding meetings during the second week of the month. Subgroup members shared their availability and generally agreed that evening meetings would be best. The subgroup members settled on the following two potential dates and times for the regular meeting:

- 6pm – 8pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043 ▪ 410-313-2001

[racialequitytf@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:racialequitytf@howardcountymd.gov) ▪ FAX 410 313-3297

<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/About-Us/Commissions-Task-Forces-and-Special-Reports/Racial-Equity-Task-Force>

- 6pm – 8pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

Ms. Gelwicks shared that the final meeting date will be determined once all six subgroups have identified their respective schedules, ideally before Thanksgiving.

Ms. Gelwicks shared information about the Racial Equity Task Force webpage, which is housed on the County Council website. The webpage will include information such as documents, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and opportunities to submit testimony. Ms. Gelwicks asked task force members to consider how they as a subgroup would like to receive testimony in the future and provided several options.

Ms. Gelwicks shared information about the Task Force kickoff meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Ms. Morrison-Brooks indicated that the meeting will be recorded for any members who are unavailable to attend. Ms. Gelwicks added that all meetings will be recorded and available to the public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

A Task Force member asked about communication and who to contact if members are unavailable to attend. Ms. Gelwicks replied that Task Force members should contact the subgroup Chair and Council staff with availability information.

Ms. Gelwicks also shared that the subgroup may identify co-captains among the subgroup members to take the lead on certain task force tasks, such as leading meetings in the Chairs absence, researching, writing, and other tasks. The subject of co-captains will be discussed at the next subgroup meeting.

Ms. Commodore-Mensah asked that subgroup members reflect on what they think the key priorities of the subgroup should be under the umbrella of public health and environmental policy. She thanked the members of the subgroup for participating.

Theo Wimberly, County Council staff, shared that all subgroup meetings are open to the public and may have members of the public tuning in to watch the subgroup members.

Ms. Gelwicks shared that any questions can be directed to her and closed the meeting.

**Action Items:**

Come to the next Legislative Process Subgroup meeting prepared to discuss:

- Topic of co-captains within the subgroup
- Specific areas of focus within public health and environmental policy