

Howard County Council

Racial Equity Task Force



Meeting: Legislative Process Subgroup Meeting

Start Time: April 12, 2021 4:01 p.m.

End Time: April 12, 2021 6:02 p.m.

Task Force Members:

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

Council and Facilitator Attendees:

Karla Morrison-Brooks, Groundwork Partners
Colette Gelwicks, County Council
Jeff Meyers, County Council

Materials:

[Agenda](#)

Approved Minutes:

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 February 8, 2021. Laura Mettle, Task Force member, seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the subgroup members.

After a brief check-in, Dr. Denise Boston, Equity and Restorative Practices Manager of Howard County Government, shared a presentation with the subgroup. In this presentation, she provided members with an introduction to her background, her current work and an overview of the Equity and Restorative Practices Unit, and her plan to develop and implement a strategic action plan in the next three years. Dr. Boston also described her plans for an Equity Advisory Committee within Howard County Government that would participate in creating and implementing the strategic plan. Finally, she discussed how these internal efforts would ultimately work with the community.

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In the discussion that followed the conversation, subgroup members were interested in learning more about how the members of the Equity Advisory Committee are selected, which areas within the County would be reviewed, how the community would be included, and whether Dr. Boston had any suggestions for the Legislative Process subgroup.

Following the presentation, Ms. Karla Morrison-Brooks, Facilitator, provided subgroup members with an overview of the recommendation and report development timeline. Ms. Morrison-Brooks walked through the timeline and shared important deadlines and tasks. Task force members had the opportunity to ask questions about any of the milestones shared in the timeline. Ms. Morrison-Brooks then discussed the format of the final recommendations and the planned content of the final report.

Subgroup members decided to spend the rest of the meeting sharing their recommendations one by one, determining whether there is any overlap with other members' work, and receiving feedback. Ms. Hufnagel, Task Force member, shared her recommendation related to the Charter. Ms. Dana Davenport, Task Force member, discussed the research and conversations that led to her recommendations before walking through her individual recommendations. One recommendation which she presented which resulted in some conversation revolved around the length of the regular legislative cycle. Mr. David Koralov, Task Force member, shared recommendations related to student members of the Board of Education but given the lack of Council jurisdiction, subgroup members felt this would be a recommendation that would be in the appendix of the final report. Ms. Mettle, Task Force member, shared recommendations around the topic of transparency, specifically as it relates to Boards and Commissions, the County budget process, and the legislative process. All recommendations that were shared garnered some discussion.

Given the time, Ms. Morrison-Brooks promised to send follow-up action items via email to the subgroup members. Ms. George adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.