

# Howard County Council

## Racial Equity Task Force

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**Meeting:** Land-Use and Housing Policy Subgroup Meeting

**Start Time:** December 8, 2020 4:01pm

**End Time:** December 8, 2020 6:00pm

**Task Force Member Attendees:**

Jessica Coates  
Suzanne Haley  
Vonda Orders  
Phillips Engelke  
Ian Kennedy  
Jonathan Edelson  
Peter Engel  
Isabella Battish  
Taneeka Richardson

**Task Force Members Not Present:**

Herbert Smith

**Council and Facilitator Attendees:**

Lauren Marra  
Felix Facchine  
Colette Gelwicks  
Kelli Berg

**Approved Minutes:**

Jessica Coates, Subgroup Chairperson, opened the meeting with a roll call and confirmed that a quorum of subgroup members was present. Ms. Coates moved to approve the meeting minutes from the Land-Use and Housing Policy Subgroup Meet & Greet on November 17, 2020. Phil Engelke, Task Force member, seconded the motion to approve minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the subgroup members.

Ms. Coates began the meeting by reviewing meeting objectives and a check-in with subgroup members and staff. After the check-in, Lauren Marra, Groundwork Facilitator, began the meeting with an overview of the Task Force kickoff meeting on November 19, 2020. Ms. Marra asked members for feedback and outstanding questions from the Task Force Kickoff Meeting. Several members shared that they would like for the Task Force to spend time analyzing existing conditions and data pertaining to housing inequities in Howard County.

Ms. Coates led a discussion on proposed partnership agreements and asked members to provide feedback. She also led a discussion on internal roles within the subgroup, including asking members who might be willing to serve in different support roles. Ms. Coates and Phil Engelke, Task Force member,

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Racial-Equity-Task-Force](https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/About-Us/Commissions-Task-Forces-and-Special-Reports/Racial-Equity-Task-Force)

volunteered to take the Open Meetings Act training on behalf of the subgroup. Peter Engel, Task Force ex-officio member, volunteered to be a “co-captain” and lead subgroup meetings in the event that the Chair is unable to attend.

Ms. Marra then led a discussion on subgroup issues that the subgroup would like to explore. The subgroup members held a robust discussion on issues pertaining to housing inequities and disparities in Howard County. Task Force members highlighted different racial disparities in housing that they believe exist in Howard County. Task force members held a conversation on the disparity in access to housing in different geographic parts of the county, with general agreement among subgroup members that housing affordability has a significant impact on racial disparities in housing.

Task Force members also discussed the concern that affordable housing options are concentrated in certain areas of the county due to zoning regulations in the county that prohibit certain housing types in different geographic areas. Suzanne Haley, Task Force member, asked members if they would be interested in hearing a presentation from the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning related to housing, zoning, and the county’s ongoing Housing Opportunities Master Plan and Task Force. Task Force members also raised the issue of affordable housing requirements in Howard County and how the county’s use of fee-in-lieu impacts affordable housing options in the county.

Following the conversation on general subgroup issues, Ms. Marra recapped the conversation and asked members what data and information that the Task Force members would like to bring and discuss at the next subgroup meeting in January. Ms. Haley shared that the Department of Planning and Zoning could present to the subgroup on issues related to housing access and affordability. Subgroup members agreed to invite DPZ to the next meeting. Jonathan England, Task Force member, shared that he would like to research the baseline housing and zoning data for Howard County down to census tracts. Ms. Coates shared that she could pull data on real estate transactions in Howard County, including information on home values.

Isabella Battish, Task Force member, asked for a map of multifamily housing distribution in Howard County. Mr. England added that he would also like more information on types of housing broken down by race. Ms. Haley shared that the Association for Community Services (ACS) of Howard County might be able to present data to answer those questions. The subgroup agreed to invite a representative from ACS to the next meeting. Mr. Engel offered to bring additional data and information on Howard County zoning to the next subgroup meeting.

Following the conversation on subgroup issues and pertinent data, the Task Force briefly reviewed the upcoming meeting dates for their subgroup:

- January 12, 4-6pm
- February 9, 4-6pm
- March 9, 4-6pm

Task Force members agreed to share the results of their respective data inquiries and research assignments with Ms. Coates and Ms. Marra by Wednesday, January 6, 2021 in preparation for the next meeting.

Ms. Coates thanked members of the subgroup for participating and adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM.