

# Howard County Council

## Racial Equity Task Force



**Meeting:** Legislative Process Subgroup Meeting

**Start Time:** March 15, 2021, 2020 4:03 p.m.

**End Time:** March 15, 2021 5:53 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](#)

**Draft 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. Allyson Owens, Task Force member, seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the subgroup members. Ms. George made a statement regarding the Racial Equity Task Force's public hearing on March 4, 2021. Ms. George also shared that Bruce Nelson renounced his membership on the Racial Equity Task Force for personal reasons.

After a brief check-in, subgroup members shared updates on their research. In the context of public engagement, Ms. George began by discussing her feedback of the Council website and sharing some suggestions. She also told subgroup members that David Korolov, Task Force member, would be looking at potential recommendations from a student point of view. Ms. George also discussed how valuable an analyst would be who could analyze legislation or projects from a racial equity standpoint. Dana

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

Davenport, Task Force member, suggested options to make it easier for the public to engage on legislation, and spoke about access as the County begins opening buildings to the public again.

Ms. Owens shared her research regarding public transportation and subsequent recommendations. Examples include providing notice and guidance for public transportation and providing reduced or no-fare transportation to public hearings and meetings.

Following the research updates, the subgroup briefly the testimony presented at the public hearing. Beth Hufnagel, Task Force member, reported out on the testimony in general. Items that were discussed related to public engagement, transparency, scheduling, representation, and budget authority. Several subgroup members shared some concerns with the formation of the Racial Equity Task Force related to some of the items discussed.

Karla Morrison-Brooks, Task Force facilitator, shared information with subgroup members about the recommendation development process they would be engaged in over the next months. She provided an overview of important deadlines and shared some expectations. Questions from the subgroup members following the information revolved around clarification of the timeline and the date for the second public hearing.

Ms. Morrison-Brooks led a discussion with subgroup members to develop small working groups to begin developing recommendations. Allyson Owens, Rashida George, and David Koralov agreed to focus on public engagement and communication. Beth Hufnagel and Sanjay Srivastava volunteered to focus on Charter recommendations. Kathryn Valentine expressed interest in recommendations related to the budget. Laura Mettle and Sanjay Srivastava volunteered to look at the issue of transparency. Dana Davenport and Rashida George agreed to look at legislative process. All subgroup members agreed to work on these topics in the coming weeks and then use April as a work session. There were additional questions related to the framework of the recommendations and how the Council could be held accountable for implementing the recommendations.

Ms. George adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.