

**City of Hyattsville  
Race & Equity Task Force Committee  
Minutes  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm**

**PRESENT**

**Task Force Members:**

- Co-Chair Alicia Sanchez Gill Freemyn (AF)
- Co-Chair Jennifer Gafford (JG)
- Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)

**Staff:**

- Race & Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre (SL)

**Guests:**

- Maraya Burks

**7:01 pm - Welcome & Call to Order – Co-chair Freemyn**

**7:02 pm - 7:05 pm – Roll Call – Co-chair Gafford**

**7:05 pm - 7:10 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests– Co-chair Freemyn**

- Welcome, Maraya Burks

**7:10 pm - 7:15 pm – Adoption of September Meeting Minutes- Co-chair Gafford**

- Approval of September meeting minutes will be moved to the November meeting

**7:15 pm -7:25 pm – Committee Stipend Program Updates –Deputy Clerk Groenendyk**

- Not able to make it to share update from Committee Stipend

**7:25 – 7:30 pm Equity Officer Updates – Equity Officer Louimarre**

- Committee members were sent an email last week that in January 2024, payments for June to November committee period. Thank you for your attendance and participation in the program. That means that September and October meeting minutes approved by November 1 deadline. We will reach out to Groenendyk to ask about short turnaround for meeting minutes because they will be drafted but they need to be approved.
- Auntie's Home, transitional housing non-profit, and Arianna from Story Tapestry were meant to be guests but we asked them to push it back to the November meeting.

- Inter-cultural conversations, the group that has hosted critical cultural conversations in HVL, has solicited the city to pick up those conversations again. The proposal was presented as an undertaking with the REFT. Next step: City Administrator Douglas would like to present at the next meeting and we can share next steps.
  - AF: Was there an impetus? What kind of conversations would they like to hold?
  - SL: They shared a list of possible programs but they are open to developing based on what we are interested in exploring.
  - AF: We have been in conversation about the approval around the Bodily Autonomy Act.
  - SL: It is up for discussion at next council meeting and it would be an opportune time to give public commentary. The video from the previous council meeting, when it was on the agenda, is still available online.

#### **7:30 pm – 8:33 pm –Equity Plan Presentation Work Session – Equity Officer Louimarre**

- Full presentation available [here](#)
- Objectives:
  - Incorporate GARE REAP best practices;
  - Prioritize final recommendations into short, medium, and long-term timelines;
  - Brainstorm desired outcomes and community indicators
- Timeline Updates
  - **November 28** ad hoc meeting: practice run-through of Council presentation and develop plan for community engagement sessions
  - **December 4** Council meeting: RETF presents an updated Equity Plan and timeline for community engagement for Council feedback
  - **December 19**: Reviewing and incorporating Council feedback
  - **December / January** (Dates TBD): Potentially community engagement sessions and Hello Hyattsville Community Engagement
  - **January** RETF meeting – Review of analyzed community engagement feedback and run through council presentation part 2
  - **February** council meeting – Council presentation part 2 and vote to (hopefully) approve plan
- What is REAP?
  - Accountability

- Based on community engagement done through the Racial Equity Tool pilot projects
  - Reviewed / approved by senior leadership
  - Adopted by elected body
  - Shared with the public (e.g., website)
  - Evaluation
    - Posting of Racial Equity Action Plan on website
    - Equity Vision Statement
    - Drafted by GARE Learning Cohort
- AF: In terms of drafting, do you (SL) hold that or do you need help from RETF members?
  - SL: My main support is feedback during agreed-upon deadlines. The City is able to budget for a graphic designer/editor and translator.
- AF: Agreed to ad hoc meeting on **November 15<sup>th</sup> during the day from 2-3:30pm.**
- SL: Does Committee want to include this version of the statement in the updated plan, as well as visioning for racial equity activity as a component of Community Engagement?
  - JM: Statement is a good start. Visioning statement as part of Community Engagement could be powerful tool.
  - AF: “Race is not a determinant of health” as a negative should be replaced with race affirmative statement.
  - JG: It makes sense that we would not want to highlight something that exists that is bad. The rest of it is aspirational. And, it is also the very first sentence.
  - SL: Will workshop this in a document and AF will support.
  - JG: Can we use Hello Hyattsville to get public opinion on the statement?
    - SL: Noting suggestion to add Hello Hyattsville for public opinion
- Committee review Recommendations document ([link](#)) and identify proposed timeline for recommendations
- Logistics
  - To present by December 4<sup>th</sup>, we need a version of recommendations/indicators by the second week of November, at the latest and ideally before our next meeting of November 15

- Other options: push Council presentation back on the agenda; however, it was our hope to have this presented prior to the discussion and adoption of 2025/2026 budget
- JG: Should we have more working sessions as part of our community engagement? Should we save a portion of our meetings as working sessions?

**8:34 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-Chair Gafford**

- JM moves to adjourn; AF seconds.