

City of Hyattsville
Race & Equity Task Force Committee Minutes
February 28th, 2023
Time: 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

PRESENT

Task Force Members:

- Co-Chair Alicia Sanchez Gill Freemyn
- Co-Chair Jennifer Gafford
- Record Keeper Vice Secretary Jocelyn Medallo
- Member Rodrigo Blanco
- Member Daniel Amador

Staff:

- Race & Equity Officer, Liaison Shakira Louimarre

City of Hyattsville:

- Council Member Sam Denes (Ward 1)

Community Member:

- Dan Broder, Chair of Educational Facilities Task Force
- Kareem Redmond
- Marshall

7:02 pm – Welcome & Call to Order – Co-Chair Gafford

7:02 pm - 7:04 pm – Roll Call – Co-Chair Gafford

7:04 pm - 7:07 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests– Co-chair Freemyn

- Welcome, CM Sam Denes, community members Kareen Redman, Marshall

7:10 pm: Adoption of January Meeting Minutes and January Ad-hoc Meeting Minutes-

Secretary Medallo

- RB moves to approve both sets of minutes for January; AF seconds. Minutes approved.

7:11 pm -7:35pm – Equity Officer Updates- Liaison Louimarre

- It is the last day of Black History Month. Updates
 - Feb. 17th – (West African storyteller, leader of community) hosted who presented the Passage to Freedom, a set of African American folktales.

- Topics discussed during the Budget and ARPA meetings that may align with our RETF work include a potential Hyattsville circulator bus, community policing initiatives, potential hiring of a housing manager.
- The City has invested in learning opportunities for leadership-level on Government Alliance on Race and Equity. There is a DMV learning cohort for Directors that will participate in a year-long cohort.
- Follow up from Native American and Indigenous History Month – one of the panelists is taking the lead to organize a powwow with the University of Maryland on March 11th from 11am-5pm at UMD.
- CM Denes: The housing manager proposal, sponsored by CM Waszczak, envisions someone who would oversee all of our affordable housing plans and follow up with the housing plan that was drafted in 2019. Mount Rainier just passed a housing rental stabilization bill, limiting the year-over-year increase in rents. Tonight, PG Council was hearing and possibly voting on a similar, though temporary, measure. HVL City Council has started to discuss implementation of our own, which would require certain staff levels.
- Liaison SL: One comment that came up during discussion was that similar to the ways the City has prioritized equity, this hiring would give this urgent issue its due weight.

7:35 pm - 7:46 pm Discussion on RETF Participation in March HVL Housing Seminar-

Liaison Louimarre

- Housing Assistance Resource Workshop on March 25, 2023 – information and resources about eviction, tenants’ rights, home mortgage and rental assistance.

Marci LeFevre, Hyattsville Aging in Place Manager. has invited the RETF to collaborate on an upcoming event. Interpretation available and exploring child care.

- Table to share information about RETF, or outreach on housing section for pulse check or information gather to inform the plan
- DA will create shared document for potential questions
- RETF pamphlet and QR code, banner

7:46 pm - 8:25 pm – Reproductive Justice Sanctuary City Bill Presentation and Discussion

– Dan Broder, HVL Resident and Chair of Educational Facilities Task Force

- Link to Hyattsville Bodily Autonomy Act Draft Version: https://hyattsvillemd-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/slouimarre_hyattsville_org/EYMqBMSJckZNqkBlZEAX30IB-eIjEqCPR3UGyzvUjKqStQ?e=7mSE0X
- National context: As of today, abortion is fully illegal – even in cases of rape and incest – in 12 states and has hostile restrictions in 12 states. Following the *Dobbs* ruling, some states have expanded access to abortion, some codifying into the state constitution.
- History of bill: Three previous drafts. Draft bill sponsored by CM Denes, Schiabe, and CM Waszczak.
 - Stop police force from collaborating with law enforcement agencies to enforce laws that would prosecute gender-affirming care or abortion care.
 - Anticipate a public hearing in English and Spanish.
- Co-Chair Freemyn: What kind of feedback would be helpful? Are there any communities you haven't heard from yet? How do you want to receive feedback?

- KR: Would this proposed legislation limit police to not comply only for issues around reproductive/gender affirming care?
- Co-Chair Freemyn: There is precedent in HVL with HVL police have not collaborated around immigration issues with ICE – sanctuary city.
- DA: Why is it that the bill would stop at law enforcement agencies and not ask that health providers operating within HVL adhere to this law?
 - HIPPA may protect that activity. This would add another layer of protection by disincentivizing the prosecution of people seeking gender-affirming care or abortion care.
- RETF can add this to next month's agenda to provide comments and will check in on timeline.
- Community member raised concern that there may be too many restrictions on HVL police and may affect their ability to do their jobs.

8:25 pm - 8:28pm Discussion of RETF Participation in March HVL Voting Outreach

Event- Liaison Louimarre

- Todos Votamos – Hyattsville Vota Local – March 12, 2023 – Hyattsville is a Sanctuary City and U.S. citizenship is not a requirement to vote in City elections. Please share widely with networks. RETF is invited to table at this event.

8:28 pm - 8:35 pm – Open Discussion/Community Comments – Co-Chair Gafford

- Review of items on next week's agenda
 - Wait to hear from Dan Broder about whether we need to incorporate a working session on the legislation
 - Reporting out from March HVL Outreach

- Community Policing presentation
 - Would be interested in inviting Chief of Police Towers to listen in and provide feedback

8:35 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-Chair Gafford

JM moves; RB seconds.