

**City of Hyattsville  
Race and Equity Committee  
Friday, July 31, 2020  
Minutes**

Meeting called to order: 7:10pm

**ACTIONS**

Approved minutes from last meeting

Accepted resignations of non-active members: Alfred Ramirez and Desiree Lucky

New Committee applicant on docket for upcoming City Council meeting

**HYATTSVILLE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Stacie attended recent Hyattsville Environment Committee meeting.

Eli Webster, Member of the Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC), spoke:  
All EC members are adopting another City committee and identifying areas of overlap.  
One focus of HEC is parks usage: The deed for Magruder Park contains racist language.  
Stacie shared draft equity plan with HEC.  
Areas of overlap for possible partnership: green spaces, public health, racial justice and environmental justice.

Rodrigo:  
Like the idea of partnering on park usage and environmental justice goals.  
Does HEC have a document like the Equity Plan?

Eli:  
We have stated goals.  
Some recent activities include climate change plan for PG county, Anacostia watershed volunteer events.

Jo:  
What is the current state of the Magruder renaming and deed update?

Jan (staff liaison) will find out.

Eli:  
HEC is considering proposal to put up new signage about history of the park and lessons learned.

Jo:

Let's assign ourselves (Race and Equity Committee members) to other City committees.

Action: add to next agenda.

## **COMMUNITY POLICING**

Stacie:

Co-chairs will send out updated Community Policing abstract for review.

At each meeting we'll review one section.

We will keep it moving but give ourselves time to create an updated plan that is high quality, then can advocate for funds in next budget cycle.

Latoya:

Agree with plan not to rush. Need quality product.

Stacie:

Is it valuable to review sections in detail?

Jan:

Set a notional schedule.

Use time between meetings to work on things.

Jo:

One section per meeting?

Stacie:

Next meeting: Review community policing feedback AND present next section: public engagement.

Each meeting will have a discussion about feedback on one section and a presentation of another section.

Two weeks for review and comment on each section.

Roadmap will indicate status of each section.

Latoya:

Asked question about Committee members getting together to work on sections and presentations.

Jan:

This is ok

Stacie:

Closed meetings are not possible.

Jan:

Any work outside if publicly posted meetings must be shared.  
Ok to have 2 or 3 people meet to work together on sections.

Stacie shared section on community policing (displayed doc on screen) and read aloud.

Jo:

Be exhaustive in list of police departments with which HCPD has multi jurisdictional agreement so we can be informed and then be transparent with community.

Rodrigo:

Important for us to know the full range of duties and responsibilities in which they're working in our city.

Stacie:

There was a suggestion for an ACLU-led review board.

Jo:

ACLU created standards or a best practices manual for resident/citizen review boards.

Stacie:

Danny Schaible interested in partnering with our committee on a resident review board.

Jo:

We need to go back into last year's Committee minutes to find out more about ACLU recommendation and then take up the Council Member on his interest.

Stacie:

We need to use the momentum if this moment to get things done.

Ashleigh:

Asked whether this section of the Equity Plan discusses quotas.

Jo:

Does HCPD have a quota system for its officers to issue tickets?

How does this impact over-policing? Esp over-policing that disproportionately impacts communities of color?

Ask the chief.

Stacie:

We need to measure City progress on community policing.

Don't yet know the exact metrics we'd want to measure.

Can we map the progress by Ward?

Rodrigo:

How do the guidelines for HCPD shown online compare to the culture and practice?  
We need to examine the quality: What does HCPD say they want to do vs what are they actually doing?

Stacie:

Will send out this draft abstract and give everyone two weeks from Monday August 17 to review and send comments to Dre (author).

Jo:

This section is missing two concepts: 1. defunding or reallocating the police budget, and 2. demilitarizing the police.

We need to think about and weigh in on these concepts *now* while they are part of national discussion.

Proposal: Invite Delegate Washington to our next meeting to discuss police reform.

Stacie:

Agreed

In Equity Plan, I agree that we can't sugarcoat our recommendations.

Need to research ways we can add these ideas.

Latoya:

County police funding can be redistributed to other priorities in the city like housing and other priorities that prevent the need for police.

Stacie:

Please be sure to submit your comments on time.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Malcolm Clark, Ward 3

David Marshall, Ward 2

Brian Banks, Ward 2

Sophie Gorman

Chuck Perry

David Marshall:

Provide copies of documents to the public.

Stacie:

We will discuss how to handle distribution to the public.

David Marshall:

There are already many ways to file a complaint against HCPD:

1. HCPD complaint form

2. City Administrator's office
3. City Council Member

Questions regarding defunding police departments:

Who responds when a crime is committed?

How will community be negatively impacted?

Fewer people would be available to do the job.

Consider adding counselors to police department.

Regarding multijurisdictional police agreement: Is it true that officers in the State of MD have authority in the entire state?

Do we want to find out?

Ashleigh:

When we say defund the police, think about how education gets treated. When schools don't perform, often funds get taken away. And where does that money go? So for example maybe we are talking about moving money from militarization to some other priority.

Stacie:

Study what Camden, New Jersey did and what other cities have done are doing to turn things around and reallocated funding from salaries to other priorities.

Jan:

Asked Stacie to distribute an article about Camden.

Brian:

Agree about getting it right and taking advantage of the moment.

Don't move too slowly.

Allocation of resources: The City has increased its budget over \$2 million. Higher proportion police than social services.

Data on City's military surplus spending is publicly available.

Possible for the City's GIS staffer to help the Committee with mapping data by Ward.

Police recruitment diversity: HCPD force seems diverse, so is it already proportionate? Are we focused on an important point or had this already been met?

Alternatives to police: Detectives and mental health workers. Gun-carrying police officer is just one tool.

Oversight committee: ACLU and National Association for Civilian Oversight of Police are good resources. Who investigates, studies and considers complaints?

Data and metrics do not appear to be racially disaggregated.

Body camera footage: Recommend the Committee require more transparency about how the City makes it available.

Officer discipline: Recommend the Committee direct HCPD to look for repeat disciplinary problems amongst officers and be transparent about them.

Restorative justice/court diversion: Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) does this. A community our size could do this. Reduces the negative impact of the criminal justice system on non-violent offenders.

Push a lot harder than you think you should. There is so much to point out.

Stacie:

Resources available re: restorative justice?

Brian will send article and links

Sophie: No comments, just listening today.

Chuck Perry:

Jurisdiction: Prince George's County Police (PGPD) routinely racially profiles black males at the Mall at Prince Georges. Lt. Col. Dunklee has tacitly acknowledged that HCPD routinely allows PGPD to use plainclothes and uniformed officers in the Mall. I have records of several calls for service where HCPD defers jurisdiction to PGPD on a regular and routine basis.

Question: In the community policing abstract, what is the Committee's source for "favorable?"

David Marshall:

WHERE ARE THE PUBLIC COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS THAT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE DISCUSSING?....

IS IT TRUE THAT POLICE OFFICERS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND HAVE POLICING AUTHORITY IN THE "ENTIRE" STATE?....AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW....MAYBE YOU WANT TO INQUIRE ABOUT THIS.....

THERE ARE CURRENT THREE AVENUES OF GETTING YOUR COMPLAINTS ADDRESSED.....DIRECTLY THROUGH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPLAINT FORM.....THROUGH THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE.....AND DIRECTLY TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS.....

IF YOU DE-FUND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.....THEN WHO RESPONDS WHEN YOU HAVE A CRIME COMMITTED?....LESS OFFICERS MEANS LONGER RESPONSE TIMES.....DE-FUNDING SOUNDS GOOD AS A SOUND BITE.....BUT THE ENTIRE PUBLIC WILL BE NEGATIVELY EFFECTED BY THE RESULTS OF THAT DE-FUNDING.....

Committee Secretary role:

Joanne has decided to resign this role.

Stacie will email specifics about the role for all who want to consider volunteering for it.