



RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY
Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Checked boxes indicate present. Unchecked boxes indicate absence.

Community Members:

☒ Dr. Pat Grant (Chair), ☒ Sonia Canzater, ☒ Dr. Isaac Cudjoe, ☒ Joseph Hurst, ☒ Dr. Tasnuva Khan, ☒ Shane Lloyd, ☒ Akufuna Ngonda, ☐ Judith Thomas, and ☒ Gustavo Torres.

County Staff Members:

☒ James Stowe (Vice Chair), ☒ Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian), ☒ Dr. Anthony R. Alston, ☒ Ilana Branda, ☐ Lieutenant Oneil Ormsby, ☒ Dourakine Rosarion, ☒ Aisha Williams.

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff:

☒ Tiffany Ward (Chief Equity Officer)

CALL TO ORDER

- A quorum was established at 6:33 pm, and the meeting was called to order at 6:34 by Dr. Pat Grant (Chair).

AGENDA

- The agenda was adopted with changes regarding the April meeting. Motion was initiated by Sonia Canzater and seconded by Ilana Branda. Motion was unanimously carried at 6:37 pm.

MINUTES

- The April minutes shall be presented for RESJAC approval on June 18, 2025. 6:45 p.m.

PRESENTATION

- Suzan Jenkins, CEO, Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and John Frandoni, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the Montgomery County Cultural Plan, which was approved in October 2022, recommending the development of a new cultural plan for the County. After more than 2 years of gathering information and laying the groundwork for a new strategy, AHCMC selected [Metris Arts Consulting](#) in 2024 to lead the cultural planning process.

- Framing how the County makes decisions on such matters, cultural plans can also influence the outcomes of county funding and policy decisions. They can help promote equitable access to arts and culture programming for all residents. They can map out how the arts, culture, and humanities can intersect with the work of the government in
- non-traditional ways, bringing innovation and fresh perspectives to the County's efforts in housing, economic development, health, and education.
- Areas of focus are primarily stakeholder engagement, advisory boards, interfaith outreach, community, and non-profit surveys, housing, economic development, and county-wide wellbeing.
- The theory of change is intersectionality, which is organizationally defined as the lens through which artists, institutions, and audiences can analyze and create art that affirms the complexities of identity and social justice. This approach recognizes that individual experiences are shaped by the overlapping effects of multiple identities, such as race, gender, class, and sexuality, rather than being considered in isolation.
- Hosted a youth town hall with the Action Youth Media, which brought middle and high school students together to share their ideas and shape the future of arts + culture in Montgomery County. Instagram: [#youthvoices](#) [#youthmedia](#).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Item 1:** Selena Mendy Singleton, RESJAC's Parliamentarian, reported on the status of the following bills that were introduced during the 2025 State Legislation:
 - **MC 9-25**, Montgomery County - Voting Methods. This bill authorizes Montgomery County to adopt a local law establishing a "ranked choice" or "approval rating" voting system for elections to County Executive, County Council, Circuit Court Judge, State's Attorney, Register of Wills, Sheriff, and Board of Education. **MC 5-25**, Montgomery County - Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove. This bill creates a Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove to study how urban renewal from 1960 to 1985 caused the displacement of Emory Grove residents and to make recommendations on potential remedies (including methods for determining eligibility and providing compensation) for former landowners and incentives for construction projects. The Task Force must hold its first meeting no later than July 1, 2025, submit an interim report by December 15, 2025, and complete a final report of its findings and recommendations by December 15, 2026.
 - **MC 12-25**, Montgomery County Superintendent - Contract - Required Provisions. This bill requires that any contract executed between the Montgomery County Board of Education and the Superintendent on or after July 1, 2025, include provisions specifying that, if the contract is terminated, the maximum cash settlement that the Superintendent may receive is four weeks of salary for each full year of service or proportional equivalent for each partial year of service. The contract must also allow the Superintendent to continue to receive health benefits coverage for one year after

termination or until the Superintendent secures new employment, whichever occurs first. The mandatory contractual provisions are not applicable to a Superintendent who is removed under § 4-201(e) of the Education Article for immorality, misconduct in office, insubordination, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty. The OIR has been advised that the Board of Education has not yet taken a position on the bill.

- The PowerPoint that RESJAC's Parliamentarian, Selena Mendy Singleton, will be shared via email to each of the members.
 - Tiffany Ward (Chief Equity Officer) shared with the group that RESJAC members are within the framework of their advisory role; however, members can interact with legislators as individual members. but that does not mean as RESJAC members.
- **Item 2:** Sonia Canzater and Joe Hurst, members of RESJAC, reported on the update on the plans for RESJAC Town Hall.
 - The initial plan was for the town hall to take place in late June; however, there is a delay.
 - A meeting will be held to determine whether the Committee on Hate/Violence (COHV) would like to collaborate with the RESJAC subcommittee in organizing the town hall. A bilateral committee meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2025.
 - The proposed themes are public safety/security, economic insecurity, and the FY2026 budget and its implications for equity.
 - Additional updates and the Emory Grove participatory outreach plans will be shared during the June 18th RESJAC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Item 3:** ORESJ Community Engagement Manager was unable to attend the May 21st meeting; however, an overview of the Equitable Community Engagement Framework has been developed, and she will email the RESJAC member prior to the June 18th meeting on how the community can participate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- Dr. Grant shared that Judith Thomas's brother passed and encouraged all to send condolences.

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm by Dr. Grant, Chair.