



RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 6:30 PM
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), ☒ Ilana Branda, ☒ Lieutenant Oneil Ormsby, and ☒ Dourakine Rosarion.

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff:

☒ Tiffany Ward (Chief Equity Officer) and ☒ Harrieta Shangarai

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 by Dr. Pat Grant (Chair)

AGENDA

- No objections. The agenda was adopted.

MINUTES

- The July 20, 2025, minutes were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Item 1:** RESJAC Townhall. Joe Hurst shared the tentative run of show for the Town Hall to be held on Saturday, Oct 25th, starting at 10 am – 1 pm. Note: Not all speakers have been confirmed. Three parts:
 1. Opening sessions
 - Tiffany Ward – opening remarks
 - Khalil Green – keynote/anchor speaker.
 - Fireside Chat: Khalil Green & Shane Lloyd (moderated by Selena Singleton)
 2. Breakout sessions
 - Education - Dr. Troy Boddy (former RESJAC member)
 - Student Safety

- Student performance
 - Economic opportunity – Mauricio Vazquez (Latino Chamber of Commerce), Ken White
 - Public Health – Dr. Ashford, Dr. Elizabeth Dutta
 - Public Safety and Immigration – Lt. Ormsby and Rev. Bellamy
3. Wrap up and moving forward
- Highlights from breakout
 - Closing remarks from Dr. Grant

Planning updates and discussion:

- There will be a walk-through on Sept 24th
- Working on food. There will be a snack break
- Flyer – First draft made by Sonia Canzater. The flyer is still being updated, and the date needs to be corrected to reflect Saturday, October 25th (Start time: 10 am). Once finalized, please help spread the word. Tiffany's group will handle the promotion.
- Event at Mid-County Regional Services Building/M-NCPPC Headquarters
- Ask how each person can help out at the event – greeters, check-in, etc. Joe will send out sign-up sheets. Ilana suggested loading on Montgomery Services for high school students to volunteer and attend.
- Akufuna knows the town hall will be great and recommends we already start planning another one for the Spring.
- RESJAC members expressed support for the plan and appreciation for the work put into the day.
- Concern raised if 10 am is too early a start time. The consensus was to leave it.
- Dourakine Rosarion stated we should allow the audience to provide feedback on what topics they would like to see in the next town hall
- The theme throughout is a call to action for next steps, course of action: advocacy, voting, letter writing, etc. Perhaps we have 6 6-month check-ins to measure our progress against. Perhaps a guiding question for the breakout groups.
- Idea to create a summary report from the Town Hall to share with elected officials.
- Suggestion to have a voter registration table, maybe health initiatives. Dr. Grant will reach out to the Board of Elections, and Dourakine Rosarion will contact health initiatives and programs.
- Dourakine asked about how the event would be promoted. Dr. Grant stated that Tiffany's group, Public Affairs, will promote. Harriet stated they are waiting for permission on Eventbrite. Dourakine stated she will help promote through official channels
- Will do final updates next month.
- November meeting – RESJAC invite to county council
- No political representation at this town hall meeting. They may be invited, but they intend not to make it a political issue. Focus is community.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 2: Election Committee. As a reminder, the Committee voted earlier this year to have a

The committee will identify people to run for positions. They will present a slate of nominees and run the voting process. Positions up for election are Chair, Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian. Members are Dr. Cudjoe, Dourakine Rosarion, and Judith Thomas. They will begin reaching out to people in advance of the November vote. Terms are one year and can be renewed. Committee members noted that, given the changing national climate, the role of RESJAC should not be taken lightly, and that you should consider the role you can play on the Committee and whether to run for a role. We will vote in November – it will be an automated ballot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- Director Jim Stowe was in the hospital. Please keep him in mind.
- Dourakine Rosarion started her doctoral program.
- Akufuna Ngonda has started a new position at Impact Silver Spring as Regional Coordinator
- Reminder to save the date on October 25th for the town hall – please hold from 9 am – 2 pm for the event and set-up/clean-up.
- Next month, there will be a presentation from the elections committee on the next steps and town hall prep, plus a presentation on changing street names.
- Executive order is scheduled to be released, listing many organizations as terrorist organizations. Request to schedule future conversations on the implications and any response on behalf of the listed NGOs. Gustavo Torres offered to take the lead on this. Suggestion to extend the freedom of speech issues. Dr. Khan suggested we include a discussion on surveillance, to which Dr. Grant responded that we may engage with the council on these issues. Will be added to an upcoming agenda, to include recommendations we can make for Council/CE for action.

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 7:32 by Dr. Grant, Chair.