

Montgomery County – Committee Against Hate/Violence

Meeting Minutes

Mission Statement: The Montgomery County Committee Against Hate/Violence works to eradicate acts of hate and intimidation through community education, advocacy, collaboration, and legislation.

Meeting Date and Time: WEDNESDAY, June 12, 2024; 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Hybrid meeting. (In-person and virtual access)

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82447362082> Meeting ID: 824 4736 2082

Phone Number: 301-715-8592

1- List of attendees:

	Voting Members	Non-voting members
Present	Pablo Blank, Chair Gabrielle Zwi, Vice-Chair Richard Allen Maria Herrera Tony Jia Femi Richards Susan Stolov Lisa Taylor Stephany Troyer	Anis Ahmed Anthony Alston, MCPS Rachel Breslin, Human Rights Commission Kate Chance Wesley Darden, Office of County Council member Mink Loretta Garcia Lt. Jeff Innocenti Kimberly Jones
Absent	Sanjeet Sam Dey, Secretary Leah Michaels Vanessa Morris Sheik Hassan Craig Simon	Selena Singleton, County Council James Stowe, Director OHR

- 2- Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.
- 3- Gabrielle moved for the June meeting agenda to be adopted. Richard seconded. The agenda was adopted.
- 4- Richard moved for the March and May minutes to be approved. Stephanie seconded. Minutes from March and May were approved.
- 5- Analysis of action items from the May meeting.
 - a. Still pending
 - i. Meeting with MCPS to analyze their reporting procedures.
 - ii. Project 311
 - iii. Training on how the Judiciary system process Hate claims.
- 6- Lt. Innocenti presented the MCPD report.

Montgomery County – Committee Against Hate/Violence

Meeting Minutes

- a. 43 hate/bias incidents within MCPS, and another 23 in the broad community.
- b. The report is published by MCPD's Policy Planning Division within the first week of every month.
- c. MCPD now hired a Hate Crimes Coordinator that contact victims of hate crimes, send letters of support, etc.
- d. The group discussed for the need of continue sharing hate incidents published in the media so we can feed our social media accounts. Most victims do not want for their cases to be exposed to the broader community, but when it is published by media, then we can share on our accounts.

Next actions:

1. Lt. Innocenti will share with Committee members the schedule for MCPD to publish the monthly Hate incidents report.
2. Lt. Innocenti will report more details on how the Judiciary is handling the anti-LGBTQ incident that happened on a fast food restaurant.

7- Friendship Picnic

- a. Date is Sunday 9/15.
- b. OHR has a pending meeting with the MoCo Office of Shared Services to advance contracting vendors. OHR will report progress on next meeting.
- c. Members discussed ideas to make Friendship Picnic even more meaningful. Indeed, members believe there is an opportunity to promote more dialogue between members of different communities, and do a more intentional pitch about tolerance and all living together in the County.
- d. Ideas:
 - i. Bingo for people to identify members who eat a different food, who wear differently, etc. and promote dialogue.
 - ii. Karaoke for kids
 - iii. Speed dating to promote dialogue. For example:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfHV4-N2LxQ&t=69s>
 - iv. Reserve a location in the Park where people can go to meet other people
 - v. Conduct a survey about the event, to learn why people attend and how to improve the experience.

Next actions:

1. OHR will confirm with Office of Shared Services everything is confirmed.
2. A committee was formed by Richard, Sue, and Pablo to identify one or two of those activities and make a proposal in the next meeting.
3. Rachel/Pablo will work on the survey idea.

8- Member brainstormed on new activities the Committee can implement to advance its mission.

Ideas were:

- a. Produce official flyers to share with Cities and other institutions to increase outreach

Montgomery County – Committee Against Hate/Violence

Meeting Minutes

- b. Produce more live events, face to face.
 - i. To tell our stories
 - ii. To listen what people has to say. Without a CAVH agenda, just facilitating the dialogue. Town halls. Listening sessions.
- c. Have Interns within CAVH or OHR so we have more humanpower and we help those interns to develop their careers.
- d. Participate in the Thanksgiving parade
- e. Create partnerships with similar Committees in the Region (Virginia, Baltimore, DC, other counties.)
- f. Produce Public Service Announcements on the impact of hate in the community, to raise awareness.
- g. Partner with Communities United Against Hate and other nonprofits.
- h. Prepare a Power Point presentation to be delivered to different communities or organizations, raising awareness, etc.
- i. Ask for the County to send a crew to film the Friendship Picnic and prepare a 5 minutes video for our website, etc.
- j. Develop a program focused on Middle School students. Intentionally targeting this population, as it is the right age to learn about preventing hate/bias.
- k. Elaborate a report to the County Executive on suggestions to prevent hate.
- l. Partner with the Commission on Hate run by the Attorney General.
- m. Speak with County Executive to add other representatives to the Committee, such as the Office of Behavioral Health.
- n. Use apps that transform a Tweet on posting on other social media to amplify message.
- o. Contest “Combating Hate through Art” with focus on students.
- p. Develop a “Student Ambassador Program.”
- q. MCPD may facilitate the facilities to produce a podcast.
- r. Participate in the County Fair. August 9-17
- s. Revisit conclusions and next steps by the Evan Glass Commission and follow them.

Next actions:

- 1. In the next meeting we will weight these ideas and choose two or three or three of them to be implemented in the coming months. The selection process will include a list of members who commit on implementing the ideas. The more volunteers an idea has, the bigger the chances for the idea to be chosen.

9- Richard moved to adjourn the meeting, and Sue second. Members voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm.