

City of Hyattsville
Race & Equity Task Force Committee Meeting Agenda
March 25th, 2025, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Participants:

Task Force Members:

- Co-Chair Alicia Freemyn (AF)
- Co-Chair Daniel Amador (DA)
- Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)
- Member Rosheen Kabraji (RK)

Staff:

- Race & Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre (SL)
- Council Member Michelle Lee (CM Lee)

Community Members:

- Marshall
- Michael Bonds

7:10 pm - Welcome & Call to Order – Co-Chair Freemyn

7:10 pm - 7:11 pm – Roll Call – Co-Chair Freemyn

7:11 pm - 7:12 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests and Public Comment– Co-chair Amador

7:12 pm – 7:18 pm – Approval of April, July, December 2024, and January 2025 February

Meeting Minutes– Co-chair Amador

- AF moves to approve the April 2024 minutes, DA seconds, all in favor
- JM moves to approve the July 2024 minutes, AF seconds, all in favor
- RK moves to approve the December 2024 minutes, AF seconds, all in favor
- JM moves to approve January 2025 minutes, AF seconds, all in favor

7:18 pm – 7:25 pm –Co-Chair Committee Position Election– Co-chair Amador

- Member Nykia is interested but as a process, since she is not here, we can table that conversation until the next meeting.
- No objections to postponing election to April meeting.

7:25 pm – 8:31 pm – Equity Plan Work Session– Liaison Louimarre, Secretary Medallo and Member Kabraji

- Review of equity plan survey responses
- Review of suggested changes to draft equity plan
- Next steps to conclude equity plan community engagement
 - Committee digs into structural feedback to the Equity Plan in real time during tonight's meeting.
 - How do we want to reach out to Committees? We can send Committee chairs the draft and ask if, during the next scheduled meeting, there is space to talk about the draft plan. Ask them to circulate the plan before their members and during the meeting, it would be a 30-45 minute discussion on high-level recommendations.
 - Would Health, Wellness, and Recreation chime in? How does this line up with the recommendations?
 - SL: I assumed the sections would align with specific committees.
 - Review of specific recommendations
 - SL: General feedback is that there are too many recommendations. Change “recommendations” and restructuring it as a suite of pro-equity initiatives and choose 1 targeted recommendations.
 - DA: We, the Task Force, cannot by ourselves complete these initiatives. They must be done through the City, a line budget item, an ordinance, etc. Maybe It's how we preface it in the report: We, as the Task Force, want to advocate for these initiatives that would have the greatest impact over the next 2 years. We are an advisory body – we need to address that in the report.
 - SL: The City wants to put all these plans under an umbrella.
 - JM: This also brings up what the role of the RETF in the next iteration, after this Equity Plan is approved.
 - SL: I am cognizant of time and propose that RK, JM and I work on the restructuring and we spend the time on going over the comments.
 - RK and JM agree to support in the restructuring.

- RK: Do Co-Chairs AF and DA have any top-of-mind high level thoughts to guide the restructuring?
 - DA: I will go through the report to pick those that are high impactful. Maybe some of our cross-cutting recs are the ones we prioritize, and they may not live in a specific equity area. We need to keep working on this.
 - AF: I am interested in community policing.
- RK: What can we look at in more detail? Where do we feel that the recommendations have already touched upon? Considering our remit as an advisory committee.
 - SL: On the Rules of Engagement policy created by a civilian-led oversight board. In the last two council meetings, there have been conversations about the size of the police budget – that has been a topic of resident feedback. There is a lot of energy around the budget and how it is used.
 - AF: I am curious about residents’ feedback. They are both from a city and national perspective, part of the tension around policing is that it runs the gamut from people who want to invest more resources, for police training for example to do a better job, and those who want to divest from policing altogether. My assumption is that what we were seeing in some of the data is that there is spectrum. Are you seeing that tension in Council meetings?
 - SL: I would encourage all of you to listen to the public feedback. Safety is a huge concern and there is a demographic of residents who do not want to divest. Your role as the Task Force is to advocate for equity to hold what you know as your experience as a resident. As budget conversations are underway, there are questions about the share of the budget and people wanting to take a greater equity lens on the impacts of some policies. For example, the license plate reader system has garnered resident questions such as: will that data be shared? And with whom?
 - AF: We have to acknowledge that there is a wide spectrum of residents’ relationships to police and we may not be able to meet everyone’s needs. That is also a question of surveillance and surveillance to what end. Who does surveillance serve when we know some communities, such

as immigrants and trans community, are more vulnerable? Budget transparency can be an important thing that speaks to the needs of Hyattsville residents. PG County already had a resident board and did not exist, so we know that is not possible at this moment. The transparency around traffic stops was already added in one of our points. That is something realistically that we can advocate for.

- DA: I second AF in the data / transparency equity and hopefully that can be tracked by the data analyst. I'm also curious to hear from AF – this plan doesn't have to definitely say this is the community policing section and these are the recommendations. Another option is that we, the Task Force, feel comfortable presenting these plans we are recommending to Council to act on. Community policy may be on topic that we may need to do further engagement on and need to further understand – we can engage more residents on this topic and can amend/augment and have a deeper dive. I'm curious what you think about that plan. If we don't feel that we've done the engagement we need to, the future of this Task Force can be to monitor and see how this plan is being implemented. And it can also be to further engagement with community on equity topics that require further discussion.
- AF: Two things are coming to mind. One is that we have to have something on policing because it's such a big part of equity. I don't know how we have it in there and also say that it's a thing that is a continued work in progress. And, no matter how much continued research we did on it, there would still be a wide spectrum of beliefs, from abolition to increased resources for the police. I'm not saying that we have done all the research and engaged with everyone, but that threat would still be there. That's not to say that we don't do more community engagement. I don't think we'd ever come to a consensus about it.
- SL: Naming the tension is something, even if it's not a to-be continued.
- AF: My initial presentation, I talked about abolition and divest strategies. Transparency around who is arrested and being pulled over is important.

Discussion on timeline for Council presentation is tabled for next meeting.

- By next meeting: RK, JM and I will meet on restructuring and share the changes during the next meeting.
 - DA: Clarification on other Committees, do we then present the original recommendations?
 - SL: Yes, present to the Committees the unrevised version and specifically drawing out the recommendations related to their Committee.

8:38 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-chair Amador

- DA: This is your last meeting as a Task Force member. Thank you so much for the time and energy that you brought to the group.
- JM: Thank you, Alicia. It has been a privilege
- CM Lee: Council Member Haba couldn't be here; however, I want to make you mindful that we are in the budget season and to consider what you need for your budget for the upcoming year to discuss at the next meeting. And on behalf of me and Council Member Haba, thank you, AF, for your time on the Task Force.
- AF motions to adjourn; RK seconds; all in favor.