

City of Hyattsville, Race & Equity Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: February 10th, 2026, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

PARTICIPANTS:

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Co-Chair Nykia Clemonts (NC)
Co-Chair Daniel Amador Renard (DA)
Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)
Member Jessica Garth (JG)
Member Christopher Koya (CK)

STAFF:

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Adam Krell (KL)

7:03 pm - Welcome & Call to Order – Co-chair Amador

7:03 pm - 7:04 pm – Roll Call – Co-chair Clemonts

7:05 pm - 7:05 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests and Public Comment– Co-chair Amador

- No attendees in the audience

7:05 pm – 7:13 pm –Welcome and Introductions for New Committee Members– Co-chair Amador

- Welcome to the new member, Christopher Koya.

7:11 pm – 7:11 pm – Approval of November Meeting Minutes– Recorder Medallo

- DA moves to approve the meeting minutes; JG seconds. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carries.
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7:25 pm – 7:39 pm –*Religion, Racism, & Reconciliation* Documentary Film Screening

Presentation – Adam Krell, Producer, Auteur Productions, Ltd.

- Local HVL documentarist, filmmaker and producer. Recent film was recently nominated in 2025 Emmy for regional – it looks at the role of religion and racism. Some of the cover that Christianity played for cover and slavery that happened in the United States but also talks about how religion can be a force for change like the civil rights era and how

communities and churches can bring people together to make change. We premiered the film in that National Press Club in Washington DC, a screening in Minneapolis, New York City and a number of churches have picked up the film nationwide. I have not done a Hyattsville screening yet. I thought it would be an interesting fit with the RETF and would be open to answer any questions about the film and what a screening in Hyattsville would look like.

- DA: Link – check it out and gives a good sense of the film. It might be helpful to think about partnering for a screening what do you envision and what would that look like. That will give a better sense of what questions we may have and how to approach it.
- NC: How do we factor in how we can assist you?
- SL: What are the financial needs or obligations, if that is a factor at all?
- AK: The first question would be the venue. I believe that Busboys & Poets would be a good venue given their overall philosophy and they have a nice screening room but they do have a rental fee. I have not approached them yet. If there is a partnership with the City, maybe they can work with us and perhaps willing to do a discounted rate. That's one way a partnership could work. I understand you have a certain level of marketing and communication to make sure the word gets out.
- NC: Would the marketing come out of the RETF?
- AK: I would do some marketing on my end to promote on the listserv and send email blasts and the Washington DC area. But I assume there is a Hyattsville city calendar that we could put this on. Within the RETF if we can promote it, that would be helpful. There is another possibility to make this film a partial fundraiser if there is an organization that you feel would be a good fit to fundraise for that is another possibility. Also if there are other venues that you recommend, I am open to another venue in regard to a partnership.
- DA: Do you envision some type of discussion afterwards, or do you envision just mingling after?
- AK: I have done it both ways with screenings. The film is 1hr45 minutes. It does cover a lot and people have questions. We have done post-screening dialogues where we bring other luminaries to talk about the subject of religion and racism in a more updated context. Obviously, things have changed since 2024. It is still very much valid but it doesn't cover the new era. It would be a matter of the running time, when we are holding the event. It can be tricky for timing and food. If there is someone from the City of Hyattsville to be part of this discussion and bring more of a local angle to this, that would also work.
- SL: What is the timeline that you are thinking of for this screening? Thinking of the topic matter, which is super relevant and can be very polarizing, we have to be thoughtful as a City Committee and want to make sure there aren't any major flags – would it be possible for a few task force members to be able to view the film.
- AK: Sometime in the Spring but don't have a specific time. I would happily send a link to preview the film. While we it is a touchy subject, surprisingly we do not get too political in the scene. We follow get out the vote efforts and the importance of voting rights for marginalized communities; it was an interfaith group to get out the vote. We don't talk about Republican or Democrat.

- NK: I am very interested. Something is happening, so I am curious about this film and what Church looks like now, 50-60 years later.
- AK: The film brings up a lot of things and that dialogue is very important – and I think that is also what might be helpful.
- DA: Thinking about our work in the last 2 years, we have definitely heard that identify as white that they feel that it's hard for them to participate in the work we are doing because they think this work isn't for me. What this offers may be an opportunity to think of diversity, racism, history – and a way to engage the community on the subject matter. It's an entry point to spend together in a safe space.
- ML: Thank you for presenting. I was just looking at the trailer. I am also very interested and would like to preview it as well.
- AK: If we are doing it in a non-traditional space (ie does not have a screen), we could talk about that more once you've had an opportunity to review the film. I only ask that you keep within this circle.
- SL: It will likely just be the RETF and the City's communication manager.
- DA: Thank you, Adam. We'll definitely be in touch. Once we review it, we should have a more concrete plan.

7:39 pm – 8:25 pm – 2026 Agenda Planning Work Session– Liaison Louimarre

- 2026 Council and committee meetings and annual City events
 - DA: with the revised RETF worksheet, the way we are operating moving forward is to be more active in the community, whether that is City events, other committee meetings, that we are front and center to be able to provide a perspective. That is the reason we will be signing up for some of these events.
 - Council meetings usually occur twice a month, usually once a month in the summer, during which your Council members get together and discuss policy and budgetary decisions. It would be great to have someone at the meeting itself or to watch the recording and bring back notes to the RETF. We can do February to July tonight. We are in the midst of budget meetings but I did not include them here.
 - Next meeting is on February 23rd. The meetings start at 7pm and 11pm at the absolute latest. You can join on Zoom as well or watch the recording.
 - DA: Propose that we start doing this March 9th.
 - SL: I always find the public comments section is a good place – it can be 20 people or 2. That's a great place to get information on what the community is feeling at that time.
 - **March 9 - DA**
 - **March 23 - JG**
 - **April (both): NC**
 - **May 11- DA**
 - **May 26 – JM**

- **July 13- JM**
 - **August – JG**
 - **Budget meetings – SL**
- Review FY 2026 Community Events
 - DA: Can we prioritize events where people linger and stay for a while?
 - NC: Can we collaborate with other Committees who may have tables/booths? I am putting a request in for t-shirts for the tabling.
 - SL: I would recommend to put together a write-up for next meeting.
 - RETF will prioritize summer jam events for outreach.
 - Review proposed communications about revised RETF advisory role
 - Outreach to community and advocacy partners for presentations at RETF meetings
 - SL: Life in Times featured the RETF Task Force and my role.
 - Identify dates for community engagement meeting
 - Week of May 11th

8:33 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-chair Clemmons

JM moves to adjourn; JG seconds.