

**Racial Justice Special Committee**  
**Town of Chevy Chase**  
**10/12/20**

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY**

- It was acknowledged that we are currently occupying unceded Nacotchtank and Piscataway lands.

All agreed to a process of COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION based on the "Alliance of White Anti - Racists Everywhere"

- Speak from experience and evidence
- Do not project or dismiss others' viewpoints
- Recognize your privileges and biases
- Ask questions about statements before challenging
- Assume good intentions
- Participants were encouraged to keep their video on during meeting if possible

SYSTEM FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: This system will be tried and can be adapted in the future if needed

- Committee Work meeting once per month (second Monday):
  - Roughly 20-30 minutes of each meeting dedicated to 3 approved initiatives
  - Time allocated for other initiatives (e.g. short-term, one-offs)
- Responsibilities by task/role not initiative
- Alternating (randomly assigned) note-taker
- Committee members to volunteer for one or more task or role and to offer suggestions for tasks
- Small groups could meet between meetings to work on tasks
- At present there are 15 active members of the committee along with the two co-chairmen (Mo Orbach and Carlin Barmada) and 2 Council members (Joel Rubin and Irene Lane)

**COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THREE INITIATIVES PRESENTED AT COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. Awareness & Education**

- The Council had complete buy-in and authorized the committee to go full steam ahead and may have funds to assist in this matter.
- Requested that the Committee to begin to look into potential speakers and rates

**2. Youth**

- The Council had buy-in for all except the scholarship which they will look into further

### 3. Town Police

- The Council had many questions and discomfort with this initiative especially about transparency and even why this topic was brought up at all. They authorized the meeting with Todd Hoffman
- Council members brought up the idea that many people in the town feel safer with police presence
- Council members indicated that the only data that the Town collects are about police reports on parking tickets, traffic stops and calls. Privacy issues would occur with transparency.
- Committee will again clarify that the committee is not presupposing an endpoint.
- Committee will pursue specifics (see below) and present this initiative again to the Council more precisely

## TASKS FOR INITIATIVE ON AWARENESS AND EDUCATION/VOLUNTEER

### 1. Research local speakers for Town-wide Discussion/Jeffrey Berger and Rachel O

- Target for these zoom speakers is early December
- Focus of discussion – keep the focus local
- Importance of a hook to catch attention of town residents/create something different from what is already available
- Suggestions for speakers:
  - Black @ B-CC filmmakers—show video & see how shaped experience
  - Local athletes--Mystics
  - Howard Cook Ross
  - Natasha Cloud
  - Indigenous advocate for around Thanksgiving
- Research speaker availability, fees (local community organization and pay honorarium, etc.
- Available funds
- Venue and publicizing Event

### 2. Create Resource List for Town Website/Beverly Hudnut

Could include:

Leadership of Greater Washington Anti-Racism Speeches (free)  
Public libraries fee downloads

### 3. Racial Justice Training for Town Council Members/Irene Lane

- Explore trainer options and format (F2F vs virtual) National League of Cities
- Research logistics (scheduling, online/in-person, funding available)
- Research confidentiality concerns

#### TASKS FOR INITIATIVE ON YOUTH/VOLUNTEER

1. Establish Youth Steering Committee: list serve, Town Crier (every Friday), Forecast (19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>): Irene Lane/Carlin Barmada
2. Explore Town policy regarding scholarship funding (contact Todd for discussions with Ron Bolt, TOCC Town Lawyer), Explore administration of scholarship: Rachel and Irene Lane
  - Research scholarship to an individual or an organization
  - Research competition
  - Discuss the meaning of the law that Town funding support must benefit Town Residents
  - Research who would control funding if given to an organization
  - Research “Black at Chevy Chase” as a possibility of being a recipient
3. Covid-19 restrictions on activities (meet with Todd)/Irene Lane
4. Brainstorm event ideas

#### TASKS FOR INITIATIVE ON POLICE/VOLUNTEER

1. Explore and understand relevant police data collection/Jeffrey Berger
  - Policing research- liaison with Todd about Town data (availability and access)
    - Look into other Towns with contracted or noncontracted policing
    - Discuss with Todd the constraints under County code about people other than police doing some of the police roles
    - Compile existing County data and figure out if it includes Town contract data
    - Begin to examine and analyze data collection and possible disparities
2. Drafting clearer website content regarding policing (protecting privacy while providing clarity on purpose of police within the Town)
  - Clarify this initiative for the Council and Town residents
  - Try to overcome some of the disconnect and dismissiveness of Council and /or public by helping them to understand this racial justice perspective; then listen to the Council’s responses and concerns
3. Organize Community organizers and Police Leadership Discussions

#### SECOND DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Jeffrey Berger to report back on purpose and goals of committee and TOCC’s role
- Jeffrey Berger reported that the Hate Crime model in Montgomery County was way ahead of many municipalities. This showed disparity in enforcement for African American and Hispanics. Jeffrey will look into how or if we can use some of this data broken down by the Town or by zip codes.

#### WRAP-UP

- Honoring: Deon Kay; They/Them Collective
- Upcoming non-Town RJ events:
  - October 28<sup>th</sup> Task Force on Reimagining Public Safety;

- Reclaim our Vote needs volunteer lawyers to research voter suppression in 8 states/ counties
- October 16 - Black & Brown Coalition for Education Excellence Forum ([bandbcoalition.org](http://bandbcoalition.org) )
- Resource Generation
- Recap of steps to be taken before the next meeting
  - Follow-up with missing members/Mo Orbach
  - Send tasks list/Carlin Barmada
  - Compile minutes/Lynne List
  - Send link to September Town Council meeting

Next Meeting: November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm