

Envisioning a Racially Equitable Prince George’s County

A Community Conversation

October 23, 2018 | 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Overdue Recognition Art Gallery

15402 Emerald Way, Bowie, MD

The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers’ Racial Equity Working Group and UMD’s Lab for Applied Social Science Research co-convened a community conversation to learn about current racial disparities in the Prince George’s County and the historical roots of those disparities. Then, participants analyzed the systems of power perpetuating inequity and how they can be interrupted, and collectively envisioned a racially equitable region.

This document captures the major themes that arose through the group conversations.

Systems of Power – Forces Resisting Change – Major Themes

# of Mentions	Systems of Power to be Interrupted
8	Racial residential segregation / housing / zoning
5	Criminal justice system / policing
5	Politics / money in politics / entrenched political interests
4	Education system / education funding
4	Health care access
2	TRIM (property tax cap)
2	Income inequality
2	Intolerance / lack of racial solidarity
2	Regional inequality / lack of investment in the county
2	Representation in the media / perceptions of the county
	Other: lack of nonprofits; resistance to immigrant rights; transportation; white supremacy and white middle class values; philanthropy; fear of government

Force Field Analysis

Forces Resisting Change	Forces for Change
<p>Criminal Justice System</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oversight & evaluation - Officers grounded in community/Community-based policing - Cultural competency & language training - Bail reform - Drug legalization - Leadership - De-emphasize stats (quotas) - De-escalation training - Policing alternatives/abolishment - Re-entry initiatives (smart re-entry) - Pretrial reform - Jury reform - Restorative justice practices - Diversity in decision-makers & decision-making - Criminal justice system representative of the community - Accountability
<p>Residential Segregation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusionary zoning policies - Reforming zoning commissions - Increase capacity of nonprofit developers - Equitable allocation of resources/promotion of development across the county - Rent control - Combating displacement - Community organizing around tenants' rights - Community land trusts - Community benefits agreements
<p>Income Inequality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase minimum wage - Increase high quality/high skill jobs - Prioritize local hiring - Workforce development - Job training in schools - Free tuition at universities in the county for county residents

<p>TRIM/Tax Reform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased access to higher education institutions in the county - Push back against policies that perpetuate residential segregation - Tax reform for more equitable distribution of funds - Litigation - Education of residents - Overturn tax cap
<p>Education System/Education Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate MGM \$ - Fully funding Thornton Commission - Inclusive, diverse curriculum - Quality teachers - Changing discipline policies - Equitable/adequate funding - Teachers reflective of the community - Making engagement accessible
<p>Developers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve adequate public facilities laws – pay their share / Hire county residents - Increased support for bonding - Change campaign financing
<p>Perceptions of the county</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information sharing - PR campaign - Prince George’s historical curriculum
<p>Political Power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campaign finance reform
<p>Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generating economic investors

<p>Other Issues Raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public health - HIV rates - Violence - Regionalism: challenges and opportunities aren't contained by jurisdictional boundaries. 	<p>Other forces for change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build an advocacy infrastructure - Civically active anchor institutions, such as churches, universities, hospitals - Capacity building and leadership development - "Require, Ask, Demand" - State university youth initiatives
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A Racially Equitable Region Look Like... / A Region Free from Racism Would Mean.... Group Vision Statements

"A place where residents are free to make choices for their lives, resources are equitably distributed around the region, residents have access to opportunities (e.g., housing, food, healthcare, schools, transportation, etc.), and the right to participate in decisions that affect their well-being."

"No residential segregation"

"Everyone can live where they want."

"Planned and balanced healthy communities"

"Freedom to pursue endeavors close to our hearts, where skin color does not determine opportunities educationally, economically, health-wise, and where no community is perceived to be less than."

"No health disparities"

"People are free to be their whole selves in an environment that supports them."

"No discrimination"

"Politically-engaged Black communities, immigrants, and white allies"

"Policing reflects the diverse population"

"Equitable distribution of power"

"Free from everyday racism"

"African-American access to capital, housing, education, healthcare through progressive laws that reward such financial access and wealth creation."

The Lab for Applied Social Science Research (LASSR) at the University of Maryland is a research center that aims to conduct innovative and methodologically-rigorous social science research that has applicability to policy outcomes. LASSR focuses on a series of critical issues of public concern including policing, community relations, health disparities, and education inequality. LASSR aims to partner and collaborate with government entities, organizations, and businesses to better address these issues.

Thank you to CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield for their support of this event.