

MOTION: FRANKLIN

October 20, 2020

SECOND: ANGRY

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 20-725

RE: CREATE A RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors issued a directive to county staff to provide alternatives for the creation of a Racial and Social Justice Commission, which would examine the state of racial and social justice for people of color within Prince William County with an initial focus on policing, the provision of government services; and public education, subject to the establishment of a partnership with the Prince William County School System; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors recognizes that public education is under the exclusive purview of the Prince William County School Board but wants to include an educational component as a focus of this Commission in partnership with the Prince William County School Board; and

WHEREAS, the County's goal is not only to treat all its residents equally but to reduce any disparities and to proactively give all our residents opportunities to participate fully in the benefits, programs, and services that the County offers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors wishes to establish a forum to study and propose solutions for racial and social justice issues and experiences within the County, and provide an opportunity to conduct a series of dialogues about racial justice with the community, other local governments, and other agencies and organizations; to identify areas of concern; to research best practices and what other jurisdictions have done and learned from similar activities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors desires to examine its own state of racial and social justice and focus initially on three areas: policing, the provision of government services, and public education in partnership with the Prince William School System. The Commission would consider, among others, the police department's policies and practices, including its hiring practices and use of force protocols. Also, the Commission or Committee would assess how the county government delivers its services and the diversity and inclusion of the workforce providing these services; and how public education policies are impacting children of color;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby creates a Racial and Social Justice Commission and herein defines the scope of its mission, membership, resources, duration, and reporting requirements.

October 20, 2020
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 20-725
Page Two

Mission: The Racial and Social Justice Commission will initially examine the state of racial and social justice for people of color in the areas of policing, the provision of government services, and public education, subject to the establishment of a partnership with the Prince William School System. The Commission will examine, among others, the police department's policies and practices, including its hiring practices and use of force protocols. The Commission will assess how the county government delivers its services and the diversity and inclusion of the workforce providing these services. The Commission, in partnership with the Prince William School System, will examine how the public school system's policies are impacting children of color. Meetings of the Commission are subject to the open meetings requirement of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the records of the group are likewise subject to FOIA.

Membership: The Racial and Social Justice Commission shall have not more than twelve (12) members. All members will serve without compensation. The County Board of Supervisors will appoint eight members, one per each magisterial district and one at-large, and a Prince William County School system representative. The Chief of Police, the County Executive, and the Chair of the Human Rights Commission or their corresponding designees will be members ex officio of the Commission. The Commission will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair among themselves. All members of the Commission serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Supervisors.

Staff Support: The County Executive will provide staff support to the Racial and Social Justice Commission. Existing Human Rights staff resources will be redirected toward accomplishing the goals established by the Board of County Supervisors for the first year; the County Executive will include a proposal for permanent staff support as part of the FY 2022 Budget.

Reporting: The Racial and Social Justice Commission will submit a report with recommendations to the Board of County Supervisors within twelve months of its first organizational meeting. The report will identify issues of concern, best practices, and a path forward to improve racial justice for people of color in Prince William County. The Commission will then receive further direction from the Board of County Supervisors with regard to their mission, goals, and actions.

October 20, 2020
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 20-725
Page Three

Votes:

Ayes: Angry, Bailey, Boddye, Franklin, Wheeler

Nays: Candland, Lawson, Vega

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

County Attorney

Human Rights

Executive Management

Prince William County Schools

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board