




Community Support for the Implementation of the Racial Justice Task Force Commission

BlackAgenda919
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In a racist society, it is not
enough to be non-racist,
we must be anti-racist.

-Angela Davis

Black woman, political activist, philosopher, academic, and author

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- ▶ Community coalition of people who identify as Black and are committed to creating a brave space to brainstorm, collaborate, and allow our voices to be heard on issues that affect the Black community
- ▶ Priority: shaping our destiny and that of future generations

Durham Race Equity Task Force

- ▶ Formation: October 2018, 21 month process
- ▶ Composition: 17 community member volunteers
- ▶ Scope of work: Develop a report to “address, develop, and implement policies and actions to ensure a more equitable Durham community” through community conversations, lived experiences, subcommittee work, research, and narrative reviews.
 - ▶ Specific areas of evaluation: wealth and economy, criminal legal system, health and environmental justice, housing, education, and public history.

Summary of Recommendations

▶ Wealth & Economy

- ▶ Collaboration with local partners for Racial Equity Fund
- ▶ Active community support to “push forward national policies aimed at ending the racial wealth gap, including a national reparations program, guaranteed basic income, and raising the minimum wage”
- ▶ Municipal jobs guarantee → end working poverty
- ▶ Wealth & Economy

Summary of Recommendations

▶ Criminal Legal System

- ▶ Decriminalization of substance use/abuse, mental illness, and poverty
- ▶ Representative jury pools
- ▶ Active engagement by city and county to support alternatives to incarceration
- ▶ Collection of data by law enforcement agencies and other relevant institutions to be made available to the public re: race, gender and ethnicity within traffic stops, arrests, and use of force occurrences
- ▶ Community based review board with subpoena power
- ▶ Continued support of law enforcement agencies for victims, with no limitations

Summary of Recommendations

▶ Health and Environmental Justice

- ▶ “Adopt definitions of Health, Anti-racism and Environment that focus on well-being, our built and natural community spaces, and environmental justice”, which includes the declaration of racism as a public health crisis.
- ▶ Develop an understanding of “community trauma in historical context.”
- ▶ Collection of data to address health and environmental issues connected to racial inequity and improve such circumstances
- ▶ Improvement of health food access
- ▶ Creation of City/County Health Alliance

Summary of Recommendations

▶ Housing

- ▶ City partnership with DHA to ensure quality of public housing
- ▶ Development and implementation of public housing and eviction policies
- ▶ Inclusion of “larger wealth building strategy” within housing strategies
- ▶ Increase collection and accessibility of data re: housing and development

Summary of Recommendations

▶ Education

- ▶ Address gaps in social safety net for children through services
- ▶ Meaningfully address discipline disparities
- ▶ Community-informed policing in schools
- ▶ Identification and addressing of racism in education institutions, including childcare centers
- ▶ Youth training – careers & economic stability

Summary of Recommendations

► Public History

- Implementation of story gathering and storytelling efforts
- Acknowledgement and apology from the city “for the city’s historical compliance in redlining, discrimination in housing covenants, urban renewal projects and the neglecting of historically Black cemeteries.”
- City funded public art projects that honor those who have been marginalized in public spaces, with a focus on hiring local, BIPOC artists

Importance of community support

- ▶ Implementation, execution, and accountability: community responsibility
- ▶ Community investment
- ▶ Necessary to reaffirm the work of the Task Force
- ▶ Recognition of greater ownership beyond the Task Force

What does this community support look like?

- ▶ 537 signatures
 - ▶ Age: 69.9% - 30 to 60 years old
 - ▶ Race: 57.5% - white, 27.9% - Black, 5.6% - did not indicate race or identity, 5.2% - Latinx, 1.7% - Multiracial, 1.5% - Asian, .6% - Middle Eastern
 - ▶ Wide range of zip codes
 - ▶ Residents who live in Durham, live and work in Durham
 - ▶ Representation of numerous organizations and within individual capacities, spanning a wide range of socio-economic communities
- ▶ Translated in Spanish to foster engagement and participation
- ▶ Conversations and commitments

What we are asking

- ▶ Adequately staffed and resourced
- ▶ Given the authority and autonomy needed to work
- ▶ Jointly supported by the City of Durham, Durham County, and Durham Board of Education
- ▶ Representative of communities directly impacted by racism

THANK YOU!