



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

FROM: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

DATE: September 22, 2016

Agenda

Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, September 28, 2016 – 6:45 p.m.
Boardroom – Herrity Building
Chairman: William G. Bouie
Vice Chair: Ken Quincy

1. Adoption of the One Fairfax Resolution that Directs the Development of a Racial and Social Equity Policy and Strategic Actions to Advance Opportunities and Achieve Equity – Action*

*Enclosures



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ACTION

Adoption of the One Fairfax Resolution that Directs the Development of a Racial and Social Equity Policy and Strategic Actions to Advance Opportunities and Achieve Equity

ISSUE:

Over the last several years, Fairfax County has undertaken several initiatives to address disparities in a variety of areas including juvenile justice, education, employment, self-sufficiency, health, and child welfare. Among these initiatives, the Board of Supervisors recognized the importance of equity as a driver of the county's future economic success in its 2015 adoption of the Strategic Plan to Facilitate Economic Success. Subsequent collaborations with community and schools have identified racial and social equity as an integral component to improving educational, health and life outcomes for youth.

In July 2016, the Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County School Board adopted the **One Fairfax** Resolution, which provides the foundation for the development of a racial and social equity policy to ensure all individuals have an opportunity to reach their highest level of personal achievement. Parks also serve an integral role in sustaining and improving the quality of life, health, and well-being of all residents in the community. Linking all people to opportunities including parks, recreation and a vibrant natural environment, helps ensure healthy living, lifelong learning, resilience, and economic success.

An intentional countywide focus on racial and social equity positions FCPA to proactively and collectively partner with government, communities, businesses, nonprofits and others to identify and improve policy, and develop operational and institutional strategies that will not just eliminate the gaps, but increase success for all.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Director recommends that the Board adopt the **One Fairfax** Resolution and join with the Board of Supervisors and School Board in pursuing an intentional leadership-oriented approach to equity, which includes the development of a racial and social equity policy and strategic actions to advance opportunities and achieve equity with intentional collective leadership, community engagement, equity tools and infrastructure to support and sustain systemic changes, and shared accountability.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on September 28, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

For more than two decades, prompted by concerns to address gaps in outcomes, Fairfax County has implemented an array of initiatives focusing on aspects of racial and social inequity, such as the Fairfax County Public Schools Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee, “Together We’re the Answer” community coalition, community dialogues on “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?”, an Institutional Analysis examining system contributors to the disproportionate minority contact of African American and Hispanic youth in the juvenile justice system, as well as a number of interagency staff teams including the Early Intervention Strategy Team and the Disproportionality and Disparity Prevention and Elimination Team. The foundation laid by these initiatives provided important lessons to move us forward beyond programs and services into a more comprehensive approach to address the policies, systems and structures that drive inequities.

In February 2014, the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT) endorsed recommendations regarding an intentional collective leadership approach to advance racial and social equity that outlined interrelated actions including community engagement, implementation of equity tools and infrastructure and shared accountability by Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools. Staff presented these recommendations and the foundations of **One Fairfax** to the Board of Supervisors Human Services Committee and the School Board on October 21, 2014, and December 8, 2014 respectively, and the Resolution was discussed at a June joint School Board and Board of Supervisors Retreat.

Fairfax County’s Strategic Plan to Facilitate Economic Success adopted in 2015 lays out goals and strategies to maintain and enhance our strong and vital community in order to sustain and grow our economic prosperity. One of the unique elements of this plan is the inclusion of social equity as a primary component. Specifically, Goal 5, Action Item 5.5 of the Plan calls for the exploration of policy opportunities, strategies or frameworks to address the issue of social equity within the context of economic success. Adoption of the **One Fairfax** Resolution contributes to the fulfillment of this Action Item.

In 2015, a baseline Equitable Growth Profile (EGP) analysis completed by PolicyLink and The University of Southern California’s Program for Environmental and Regional Equity in conjunction with a multi-sector advisory group provided compelling evidence that equity is an economic imperative. Research shows that more equitable regions experience stronger, more sustained growth; regions with lower income inequality and less segregation (by race and income) have more upward mobility; companies with a diverse workforce achieve a better bottom line; and a diverse population more easily connects to global markets. In addition, the benefits of equity and universal access to public parks are far-reaching and underscore the role of parks in cultivating a sense of connectedness that makes communities livable and desirable.

Board Agenda Item
September 28, 2016

One Fairfax moves us beyond embracing our growing diverse population to implementing a growth model driven by equity. A racial and social equity policy provides both the direction and means to work together with the county, communities and partners to eliminate disparities and build a vibrant and opportunity-rich society for all.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Board of Supervisors July 12, 2016 approval of One Fairfax Resolution may be accessed online at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/bdagenda/2016/board-package-july12.pdf>

Attachment 2: One Fairfax Resolution may be accessed online at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2016/one-fairfax-resolution.pdf>

Attachment 3: School Board July 28, 2016 Action to Adopt One Fairfax Resolution may be accessed online at:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AAZPAE622762>

Attachment 4: Equitable Growth Profile of Fairfax County Summary may be accessed online at:

http://nationalequityatlas.org/sites/default/files/Fairfax_Summary_16June2015_Final.pdf

Attachment 5: Equitable Growth Profile of Fairfax County may be accessed online at:

<http://nationalequityatlas.org/sites/default/files/Fairfax-Profile-6June2015-final.pdf>

Attachment 6: Unnatural Causes: Is Inequity Making us Sick may be accessed online at:

http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/episode_descriptions.php?page=1

Attachment 7: Social Equity and Parks and Recreation may be accessed online at:

<http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Position-Statements/Social-Equity-and-Parks-and-Recreation/>

Attachment 8: Resolution to Adopt One Fairfax Resolution

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/CCO

Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

David Bowden, Director, Planning & Development Division

Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division

Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division

Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division

Judy Pedersen, Public Information Office

One Fairfax

At a regular Fairfax County Park Authority Board meeting of Fairfax County, Virginia, held in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia, on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in July 2016 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County School Board jointly adopted the **One Fairfax** Resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Park Authority supports the **One Fairfax** Resolution and joins with the Board of Supervisors and School Board by aligning agency direction and priorities, so collectively, we will realize “One Fairfax,” a community where everyone can participate and prosper; and,

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Park Authority has established a vision of Great Parks, Great Communities, and takes pride in the role of parks in making Fairfax County a great place to live, learn, work, and play; and,

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Parks serve an integral role in sustaining and improving the quality of life, health, and well-being of all residents in the community and that linking all people to opportunities including parks, recreation and a vibrant natural environment is a vital public service; and,

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Park Authority provides high quality programs and amenities to the largest and strongest economy in the Washington Metropolitan area and one of the strongest in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, park leaders and staff, in addition to county and school leaders and staff, are committed to providing excellent services for every resident of Fairfax; and,

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Park Authority embraces the growing diverse population and recognizes it as a tremendous economic asset but recognizes that racial and social inequities still exist; and,

WHEREAS, achieving racial and social equity are integral to Fairfax County’s future economic success, as illustrated in the Equitable Growth Profile and highlighted as a goal in the Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board that the Park Authority approves the adoption of the **One Fairfax** Resolution and joins with the Board of Supervisors and School Board in pursuing an intentional leadership-oriented approach to equity, which includes the development of a racial and social equity policy and strategic actions to advance opportunities and

achieve equity with intentional collective leadership, community engagement, equity tools and infrastructure to support and sustain systemic changes, and shared accountability.

The undersigned Secretary of the Fairfax County Park Authority certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true, complete and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Authority held on September 28, 2016.

Secretary, Fairfax County Park Authority

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA:

: to-wit:

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by _____,
Secretary of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, this 28th day of September, 2016.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

Notary Registration Number: _____