

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

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FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO LAUNCHES JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL AIMED AT BRINGING VALUES OF THE COMMUNITY TO THE COURTHOUSE

The Council, which includes 19 community members with a diversity of experience, will help CA Descano's office engage with the community about its efforts to reform the local criminal justice system and gather input about potential gaps in the system.

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA – Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced the members of his office's newly-launched Justice Advisory Council this week, following the Council's first meeting on February 2. The Council will work with CA Descano's office to educate the community about the role of the Commonwealth's Attorney, engage the community about the office's reforms to the criminal justice system, and identify further gaps in the local justice system that may require action.

The 19 members of the Council hail from a wide array of backgrounds and include individuals who have experienced the criminal justice system personally, advocates for victims of domestic and child abuse, a registered nurse, the student body president of George Mason University, racial and economic justice activists, as well as a former police officer, among others. All members of the Council completed an interview process with staff members in the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

CA Descano released the following statement regarding the launch of this first-ever body of its kind:

"I am thrilled to announce the members of my office's Justice Advisory Council and grateful to this inspiring group for their willingness to serve. I have been clear from the day I took office that role of Commonwealth's Attorney is to bring the values of the community to the courthouse. This group will help us do just that by engaging community members about the reforms we implement and soliciting input from the community about gaps in our justice system that may require action."

The full list of Justice Advisory Council members is as follows:

Adam Abutaa, Oakton
Shelby Adams, Lorton
Maya Castillo-Morrison, Fairfax City
Cathy Caton, Clifton
Alan Davis, Reston
Vy Dong, Annandale
Stephen Ewart, Reston
Beth Glicker, Vienna

Kader Gumus, Reston
Victoria Hayes, Burke
Cynthia Hyland, Reston
Andres Jimenez, Fall Church
Deborah Matthews, Alexandria
Ashraf Nubani, Springfield
Cyndi Shanahan, Reston
Makan Shirafkan, McLean
Sherry Soanes, Falls Church
Michel Thames, Fairfax City
Sean J. Wright, Vienna

The launch of the Justice Advisory Council comes on the heels of groundbreaking reforms announced by CA Descano that include restructuring the office to produce accountability around reform, the cessation of the prosecution of marijuana possession, codifying a policy of no longer requesting cash bail, and a comprehensive package of sentencing reforms aimed at reducing mass incarceration.

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