



# **CHAIRMAN'S TASK FORCE ON EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY**

**UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS & PROPOSED ACTIONS**

Presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
September 21, 2021

# Overview of the Chairman's Task Force on Equity & Opportunity

## **Purpose**

The Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity was convened in September 2020 to better understand the drivers of inequity in Fairfax County and to develop recommendations for accelerating the county's progress towards becoming One Fairfax.

## **Structure**

The Task Force was comprised of community leaders and subject matter experts and was organized into four committees:

- *Cradle to Career Success*
- *Community Health and Wellness*
- *Community Safety and Justice*
- *Equitable Communities*

## **The Work**

The insights and recommendations developed by the Task Force were identified as critical to advancing racial and social equity in Fairfax County.

# Review of the Recommendations of the Chairman's Task Force on Equity & Opportunity

- Following the Board's robust discussion at the February 23 meeting, the recommendations were shared with key leadership and staff for review and input.
- The recommendations reflected the direction articulated in the Countywide Strategic Plan and Economic Recovery Framework
- Information was compiled and shared with the Board to inform consideration of further action.

# Further Insights from the Chairman's Task Force on Equity & Opportunity

- Staff review information was also shared with the Chairs of the Task Force to ensure the integrity of the recommendations was not compromised.
- A theme emerging from the chairs, with consultation from their committees, was that while immediate action is necessary it isn't just **what** the county does that is important, but **how** we do it.
- Four of the twenty recommendations were identified for immediate action as the Task Force believes these recommendations provide the foundation and context for addressing the remaining items from the frame intended.

# Priorities of the Chairman's Task Force on Equity & Opportunity

**Recommendation 16:** Develop, pilot, and institute Fairfax County equity-based decision-making tools for planning, projects, decision making and resource allocation.

**Recommendation 18:** Establish a Community Advisory Board, with representation by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and low-income individuals, to monitor the degree to which each county agency has prioritized the needs of BIPOC and lower income communities.

**Recommendation 19:** Demonstrate intentionality in ensuring diverse representation and inclusiveness in power and decision-making.

**Recommendation 20:** Ensure our local leaders, public and private, have the knowledge and capacity to understand the drivers of racial inequity and their contribution to structural racism and use their power to build more equitable communities.

# INFORMATION & NEXT STEPS

- Actions have been identified for ALL Task Force recommendations. Some actions reflect things the county is doing or has committed to do while other actions require additional study and/or the engagement of non-County stakeholders to advance the work.
  - County Champions have been identified for each action to ensure accountability for implementation and Community Champions will be engaged.
  - Actions have been aligned to the Countywide Strategic Plan and Economic Recovery Framework to enable prioritization and compliance with organizational requirements.
  - Actions are presented for your awareness and in particular, your endorsement to act on the four recommendations prioritized by the Task Force is requested.
  - Updates on progress will be provided.
  
- Taking these actions should not be construed as final implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force. The Task Force's recommendations provide the County with a direction for operationalizing our commitment to becoming One Fairfax and should continue to inform our planning and decision making.
  
- With their charge completed, members of the Task Force will be invited to a future Board meeting for recognition of their valuable work.