

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)

Meeting Notes

Saturday, August 29, 2020



GNC Executive Committee (GNC EC) members **Joel Landau** and **Mike Pendergraft** convened the **August 2020** GNC meeting using the remote ZOOM online meeting application, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Susan Taaffe read aloud a letter emailed August 3, 2020 from the GNC Executive Board to GNC members, preparing for today's meeting -- a forum to discuss methods to dismantle **System Racism**. Guest Facilitator **Teresa Lockamy** asked participants "**How can the GNC help dismantle systemic racism in Greensboro?**"

Several participants mentioned the effectiveness of discussing racism in **small group meetings**, as well as participating in **short-term outdoor activities** in which diverse individuals work and play side-by-side. Initiate discussions within our own families and our neighborhoods. We can better educate ourselves and others about how to request City services and use City complaint systems. Walking, biking, and riding City buses bring us out of our private vehicle comfort zone, increasing opportunities to engage with persons different than ourselves. The **Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT)** <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/transportation> and **Bicycling in Greensboro** <https://bikegso.org/> both advocate for greater accommodations for pedestrians, bus riders, and cyclists -- activities which can increase interracial interaction.

While many of Greensboro's neighborhoods remain racially segregated, our children are more likely to interact with diverse populations at school. Local universities host public discussions, such as UNCG's **History of Racism in America**. City Councilperson Mary Kay Abuzaiter will remind neighborhoods she visits to **participate in the GNC**. The GNC may invite our **Greensboro Police Chief** and our **Guilford County Sheriff** to present at a future GNC meeting to discuss how to reduce officer's racial bias through local law enforcement hiring and training. Regarding police responses in dangerous situations, in 2016 a national group **The Police Forum** published **Guiding Principles on Use of Force**. <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/guidingprinciples1.pdf>.

Consider participating in the following local and/or national organizations.

- **Guilford Anti-Racism Alliance (GARA)**. "An anti-racist, information-sharing, collaborative, discussion-and-action group, consisting of three partly overlapping caucuses (People of Color Caucus, White Caucus, and Joint Caucus) which provide safe spaces to challenge individual, institutional, and cultural racism and to develop sustaining networks so that we may continue working towards a more anti-racist society." <https://www.meetup.com/Guilford-Anti-Racism-Alliance/>
- **The Partnership Project**. "Establishing structures that respond to, empower, and facilitate communities defining and resolving issues related to racial disparities." <http://ThePartnershipProject.org/index.html>
- **Racial Equity Institute**. "An alliance of trainers, organizers, and leaders devoted to creating radically equitable organizations and systems, helping individuals and organizations develop tools to challenge patterns of power and grow equity." <https://www.RacialEquityInstitute.com/groundwaterapproach>
- **Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE)** -- "a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all". <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/>
- These resources have been added to the GNC website. www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org
- Also recommended is the 2018 book **So You Want To Talk About Race** by Ijeoma Olvo.

In coming weeks, the GNC Executive Committee (GNC EC) plans to generate action plans toward reducing systemic racism. GNC internal recommendations to combat systemic racism include:

- 1- GNC **Committees themselves should evaluate racial equity issues** from each Committee's perspective.
- 2- The GNC should **ensure our efforts equally impact minority/majority neighborhoods.**
- 3- The GNC should support local race equity groups **by sharing their announcements and participation.**

Facilitator Teresa Lockamy asked **how the GNC will create a process for gathering "Idea Afterglow"** – ideas that may pop-up after today's Zoom meeting toward reducing systemic racism. **Email** your reflections and ideas to GNC.GSO.NC@gmail.com and **post** onto the GNC Facebook page.

Participants thanked Facilitator **Teresa Lockamy** tlockamy1@att.net and all who participated in the GNC's first ZOOM remote meeting.

GNC members are encouraged to **invite additional neighborhoods** to join the GNC and attend meetings. To join the GNC e-mail listserv, contact GNC.GSO.NC@gmail.com.

The next GNC meeting date and time is **To Be Determined**. Social distancing is required as our country continues to deal with a pandemic.

GNC notes were respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, August 30, 2020.