



We need YOU to turn out tomorrow night to show your support for racial equity in policing!

WHAT: CAJM will be co-hosting a community forum on racial equity in policing in partnership with the Charleston Police Department, the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, and the Citizen Police Advisory Council.

WHEN: Thursday, January 25 (TOMORROW!) at 5:30pm

WHERE: The event will be held at the St. Patrick Catholic Church Parish Center (127 St. Philip Street, Charleston). There will also be a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person, but we strongly encourage in-person participation. We want to pack out the room to show how important this issue is to the community! We will provide snacks to in-person attendees.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

Here is a letter from Policing Committee Co-Chair Suzanne Hardie with more information about the event

Hello fellow Justice Seekers!

You have heard me speak about racial disparities in policing on behalf of CAJM for six years now: how we fought and won to have a Racial Bias Audit of the Charleston Police Department; how we have pushed for acknowledgment and action on the significant racial disparities identified; and, most recently, how we fought yet again to have the City conduct an external review of the Police Department's slow progress on the 2019 Racial Bias Audit recommendations.



Today, I'm urging you to come to an extremely important event—one that is a huge milestone in our work to get transparency and action on reducing racial disparities from the Charleston Police Department. On Thursday, January 25 at 5:30pm we will host the **first Community-Wide Forum on Racial Equity in Charleston Policing.** The results of the recent External Assessment Report regarding CPD's progress on addressing the 2019 Racial Bias Audit recommendations will be shared. And, most importantly, **the community will have the opportunity to voice their questions and reactions to the report.**

This is truly a WIN for our policing work! And, it has taken almost Herculean effort to get to this point! So, please help us ensure we turn out a large crowd to prove to both the City and CPD that the community cares both racial disparities in policing, that we will hold them accountable to address the disparities in their control!

Consider for example:

- **Black drivers get stopped significantly more often than White drivers, even though they're a smaller part of the driving public.** And, racial disparities in motor vehicle stops have actually increased since 2019!
- **Black drivers are warned significantly more frequently than White drivers,** and if a citation is issued, Black drivers are more likely to get multiple citations
- Worse yet, when police have probable cause to search a vehicle, they find illegal items more often in searches of White drivers compared to Black drivers. They find contraband in 70% of searches of White suspects, but just 50% of searches of Black motorists stopped. **This shows that police are searching Black drivers more readily than White drivers**
- In 2021 and 2022, about **115 White motorists were arrested for various violations, while 515 Black motorists were arrested during the same period.** This is happening even though Black

drivers make up less than one-third of the total driver population

So, I hope your blood pressure is up! I hope you are as outraged as I am by these ongoing racial disparities in Charleston's policing!

Will you show up this THURSDAY EVENING AT 5:30pm at St. Patrick's Parish Hall (127 St Philip St.) to support the community and CAJM, to share your thoughts and questions, and to help make change happen in Charleston?

Ideally, we'd love to see you in person (we'll have food!), or you could attend virtually to back us up if in-person is not possible.

Thank you in advance for your support for this significant justice issue in Charleston. We are making a difference. And are on the verge of making the significant difference we have sought and fought for so long!

Thank you,

Suzanne Hardie
Unitarian Church in Charleston

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