



Community Coalition for Social Justice
PO Box 160
Morgantown, WV 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 30 JUNE 2020

MISSION STATEMENT: The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP: While West Virginia is beginning to think about reopening, we are still following the physical distance guidelines. **We will again be meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, July 21st, at 7:30 p.m. Note the time change to 7:30. Everyone is invited to join us. The call-in and meeting identification number information will be sent later, but, if you have not used Zoom, you can go to zoom.us to learn how to access a meeting.**

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@comcast.net. Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.

UPDATED LIBRARY BOOK LISTS ONLINE – For several years, the City of Morgantown provided funds for us to purchase library books focused on social justice issues for the Morgantown Public Library on Spruce Street. With funds from the Appalachian Community Foundation, we also purchased books for the Clinton District and Clay-Battelle Branch Libraries. Most of these are books for children. The library has added some of these at the Arnettsville branch.

The lists have been updated and are available now at ccsjwv.org/resources.html. The library is now open enough that people can order books and pick them up curbside. For more information on this procedure, please go to www.mympls.org/.

CCSJ SUPPORTS NAACP EFFORTS: The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP sent a letter to Morgantown Police Chief Ed Preston, seeking to work together to address issues that have arisen across the country from the death of George Floyd and others. NAACP President Jerry Carr, Jr., asked us to be among those who signed on to the letter, and our co-chairs, Susan Brown and Sandra Nelms, did add

their names on our behalf. Dr. Carr participated in our June meeting, and we look forward to future collaborations on this effort.

CCSJ AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP: Mike Attfield will speak about our work at the Fellowship meeting on July 26th. This will be a zoom meeting so see below to learn how to access the presentation.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2021 WILL BE JANUARY 18TH: The City of Morgantown has granted our request for \$1850 to support this event, but it is subject to potential reduction depending on the City's financial situation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are discussing what kind of celebration we can have, including the possibility of a virtual event. Meanwhile mark your calendars for Monday, January 18th at 2:00 p.m. for our fifteenth annual celebration and let us know if you have ideas.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK! Just look for "Community Coalition for Social Justice" under "Groups" and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group "leader."

LOCAL NEWS

SUPPORT LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS: Do you want to "do something" to help in this difficult time when we are supposed to be staying at home? If so, we are suggesting that the following local organizations might benefit from any financial assistance you are able to provide as they help people in need in the Morgantown-Monongalia County area. As far as we know, all are 501 (c) (3) organizations so contributions would be deductible to the extent allowed by law:

Bartlett Housing Solutions (Bartlett House): www.bartletthousingsolutions.org/donate; 10 West Run Road, Suite 200, Morgantown, WV 26508, (304) 292-0101, info@bartlettthouse.org

Caritas House: www.facebook.com/pg/CaritasHouse/about/?ref=page_internal; 391 Scott Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26508, (304) 985-0021. See more about this effort below under the news from the Church of the Brethren.

Christian Help: www.motownchristianhelp.com/donate; 219 Walnut Street, Morgantown, WV 26505, In-Kind Contributions / Collection Drives: information@motownchristianhelp.com, (304) 296-0221; Financial Contributions: finance@motownchristianhelp.com, (304) 296-0221 ext. 11.

Community Kitchen, Inc. at Trinity Episcopal Church: www.morgantowncommunitykitchen.com/, PO Box 922, Morgantown, WV 26507.

Empty Bowls Monongalia: ebmon.org/, 7 Rousch Drive, Westover, WV 26501, (304) 241-5510

Milan Puskar Health Right: mphealthright.org/donate/, 341 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 292-8234, info@mphealthright.org

Morgantown Area Meals on Wheels: morgantownwvmow.networkforgood.com/projects/79143-morgantown-area-meals-on-wheels-fundraising, 3375 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505, (304) 599-1954, morgantownareamow@gmail.com.

The Pantry Plus More: pantryplusmore.org/donate/, 9 Rousch Drive, Westover, WV 26501, (304) 282-1123, info@pantryplusmore.org.

Scotts Run Settlement House: www.srsh.org/, P O Box 590, Pursglove, WV 26546, (304) 599-5020, www.srsh.org/contact for email form.

The Shack Neighborhood House: www.the-shack.org/, P.O. Box 600 Pursglove, WV 26546, (304) 599.5466, www.the-shack.org/contact-us.html for email form.

United Way's list of food and hunger sites at www.unitedwaympc.org/food-hunger/

Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia, Inc., Emergency Impact Fund for North Central West Virginia: P.O. Box 409, Morgantown WV 26507, 304-296-3433 www.ycfwv.org/yfc-establishes-emergency-impact-fund-to-aid-in-covid-19-response/



YOUR VOTE MATTERS: It is not too early to plan for the general election. You can apply for an absentee ballot starting on the 84th day before November 3rd. That should be about August 10th.



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, **July 16th** at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. However, the City has been cancelling all non-essential meetings so stay tuned. You can get contact information for the commission, including information on filing complaint forms at www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission.

Members of the Human Rights Commission endorsed a **resolution presented to the Morgantown City Council at the June 30th Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:00 p.m.** entitled "Resolution Affirming and Strengthening [*sic*] Community Policing." Here it is with information on commenting about the resolution following the references:

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY POLICING

Whereas, 1,000 and more persons in Morgantown demonstrated to express concern with millions of others in the nation and the world about the violent death of George Floyd in Minneapolis due to deadly policing practices, and

Whereas, the City of Morgantown has endeavored to operate its policing according to a Community Policing philosophy which stresses community partnerships and strategies for redirecting crime and disorder, an approach to public safety which provides citizens with more control over the quality of life in our community, and

Whereas, Community Policing respects the rights of individual citizens and residents to express First Amendments rights non-violently, and

Whereas, the City of Morgantown has made important progress in making Community Policing its mode of public safety under the able leadership of Chief Edward Preston now retired:

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Morgantown affirms its progress in Community Policing and resolves to provide continued improvements in its future public safety as follows:

1. Reaffirm and augment the mission and operations of the police department.
2. Add enough racially and ethnically diverse officers to the police department to be at least proportional to the Morgantown population.
3. Continue to review the background of officer candidates to confirm that any previous experience as an officer was free of improper behaviors and/or excessive use of force.
4. Establish an arrangement with a community agency that enables that agency to assist the police promptly when needed for follow-up on crisis situations, de-escalations, behavioral and mental health problems, and intoxication with information/referral and other evidence-based problem-solving. (Refer to an established mobile mental health crisis intervention team unarmed and without police back-up in Eugene, Oregon.)
5. Assist officers in becoming more knowledgeable in coping with mental illness and drug related situations and, when possible, allow civilian mental health workers and homeless-service workers to take the lead in crisis situations with communications, containment, and coordination with appropriate care-giving.
6. Divert persons with mental illness from jail custody to specialized courts or care systems as opportunities permit.
7. Expand relationships with neighborhoods, commercial establishments, Monongalia County and West Virginia University and other constituents and partners for the purpose on making public safety more public and more effective.
8. Continue to protect the rights of protesters to exercise their First Amendment Rights non-violently and to emphasize that violations of property are not to be equated with the violation of human life and that deadly force is not be used on protestors.
9. Continue the use of body-worn cameras and other means of enhancing transparency, accountability and accessibility by uniformed police in providing public safety services.
10. Continue to require marked police vehicles to be equipped with dashboard cameras.
11. Improve police personnel training by emphasizing best practice anti-racism training and implicit bias orientation and by stressing the use of evidence-based preventive and de-escalation intervention skills as well as modes of intervention if they see another officer use excessive force.
12. Re-emphasize in training the use of deadly force only as a last resort when necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury and establish a clear Morgantown Police prohibition on the use of the chokehold or other carotid artery holds in restraining or subduing a resistant individual or in bringing an unlawful situation under control.
13. Restrict participation in the Federal 1033 program which provides military equipment to local and state police and end participation in tactical military training for use in community policing.
14. Establish race and LGBTQ liaisons to the Police department as resources to assist with plans for training and with the review of cases as needed.

15. Establish a diverse volunteer Community Police Review Board 1) to review community complaints about alleged police misconduct to assure that investigations have been judged to be fair, accurate and equitable, 2) to assist the Police Chief, City Manager and City Council in evaluating overall policies and performance of the Police Department, and 3) to increase transparency on policing performance for the community at large. (Recommended guidelines to follow for City Council review.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council of Morgantown as of this day adopts the recommendations in this Resolution and authorizes the City Manager to proceed toward their implementation.

Date: The _____ day of _____ 2020.

_____ Mayor

_____ City Clerk

Draft IV – June 25, 2020

References for Resolution on Affirming and Strengthening Community Policing and for the Community Police Review Board Guidelines:

Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission. “Civilian Police Review: Recommendations for Strengthening Police-Community Relations in Ann Arbor”. November 4, 2015. <http://www.icpj.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Recommendations-for-Strengthening-Police-Community-Relations.pdf>

“Civilian Police Oversight Agency”. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_police_oversight_agency#:~:text=A%20civilian%20police%20oversight%20agency,an%20implementation%20of%20citizen%20oversight.

Essay in Criminology, (Author Unidentified). “Advantages and Disadvantages of Community Policing”. February 2, 2018. <https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/criminology/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-community-policing.php>

Eugene, Oregon. “Eugene Civilian Review Board: Policies and Procedures Manual”. Website. <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/580>

Finn, Peter. Citizen Review of Police: Approaches and Implementation. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. 2001. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/184430.pdf>

Gardner, Gary. Community Policing: Principles and Elements. University of Kentucky, 1996. (Supported by a grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.) <http://www.ncdsv.org/images/communitypolicingprincipleelements.pdf>

Iowa City, IA. “Community Police Review Board (CPRB)” and “Community Police Review Board Information”. <https://www.icgov.org/city-government/boards/community-police-review-board-cprb>

Morgantown Police Department Guidelines for Discipline: General Order(s) 103 – Code of Conduct; 104 - Rules and Regs.; 105 – Improper Conduct; 106 – Response to Resistive Aggression; 107 – Use of Less Lethal Force; and 311 – Mobile and Officer Worn Recording Equipment. National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. Website. <https://www.nacole.org>

Poor People's Campaign – Action Network. "Our Demands". June 20, 2020.
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/our-demands/>

U.S. Congress (Current Legislation). "Justice in Policing Act of 2020". Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020

Vitale, Alex S. The End of Policing. Verso, New York, 2018.

Yes! Magazine. Turnbull, Lornet. "Cities Reimagine Public Safety Amid Calls to #Defund Police". June 13, 2020. <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/06/13/cities-reimagine-public-safety-amid-calls-defundpolice>

PARTICIPATING IN A CITY COUNCIL MEETING: "When it is time, the public may participate in the public portion by videoconference at the following link:
<https://cityofmorgantown.my.webex.com/meet/cityofmorgantown> with meeting number (access code) 793 734 477, or by calling in at the following number 408-418-9388 and using the access code 793 734 477.

"All members of the public may view the meeting on Channel 15 and by streaming hosted on the City's website at www.morgantownwv.gov. If you do not wish to speak at the meeting, please view it by these methods to conserve capacity on the videoconference.

"Any person who wishes to speak at the meeting may complete the form at <http://morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Public-Comment-Sign-Up-Sheet-14/Public-Comment-Committee-of-theWhole-fo-72> or provide their name, phone number they will use to participate, and the topic on which they would like to speak by texting 304-288-0847 or texting 304-288-7072. You may sign up to speak at any time until the meeting begins.

"Additionally, the public may submit written comments for the public portion of the meeting by sending written comments via email to the City Clerk at cwade@morgantownwv.gov. In the email, please use the subject line "Public Comment 06/30/2020" and indicate in the body of the email if you would like your comment read aloud during the public portion of the meeting."

You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/.

You can find a calendar of annual human rights observances at www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf.

Here are the events for July:

July 4: Independence Day – Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776, which led to the creation of a new union and new rights for citizens.

July 11: World Population Day – Emphasizes awareness that the world's #1 problem is too many people using too many resources and creating too much unsustainable waste. Excesses impact current climate, energy and support systems.

July 26: ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Day – Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/. The July meeting will be a video conference call on July 14th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. For the video conference link, email morgantownnow@gmail.com.

Morgantown NOW has also started “Timeline Tuesdays, a “20 part series, created by an all-volunteer team from the WV Women Vote Coalition of Morgantown. Our series will illustrate important events in the history of WV and the USA as they relate to voting.” You can access these videos from the Facebook page.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: No updated information was available about future meetings at “press time.” There is, however, a video featuring Reverend Zac Morton speaking “In Response to the Deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.”

Follow GMIA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/, on the web at www.morgantowninterfaith.org, or by email at morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com for updates.



NAACP MEETS JULY 21ST: This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

As noted above, NAACP President Jerry Carr, Jr., sent a letter to Chief Ed Preston, with copies to Interim Chief Eric Powell and Interim City Manager Emily Muzzarelli. Numerous local organizations signed the letter in addition to CCSJ. Chief Preston did respond.

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/morgantown.naacp.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE: Morgantown Church of the Brethren continues to hold Sunday noon picnics at Wiles Hill Park, with families distanced on blankets on the grass, or folding chairs. All are invited! There is no potluck meal, only bring-your-own sack lunches. The fellowship is great, though. Morgantown Church of the Brethren continues to hold Sunday noon picnics at Wiles Hill Park, with families distanced on blankets on the grass, or folding chairs. All are invited! There is no potluck

meal, only bring-your-own sack lunches. The fellowship is great, though. Follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634>.



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN STAYS VIRTUAL: Beth Houseknecht reports that:

“July 5 We will have our first UUFM open Board Meeting on Zoom
July 12 we will have a Zoom Concert with UU Folk Musician Andrew McKnight
July 19 will be UUA General Assembly in Review
July 26 is the Zoom meeting with CCSJ.” Mike Attfield will represent CCSJ.

Check the web site at www.uufmwv.org or the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-of-Morgantown-WV-367256688732 for updates.



PFLAG MORGANTOWN: “PFLAG Morgantown is hoping to submit a nomination for the Morgantown City LGBT Liaison (see attached description). If you live within Morgantown city limits and would like to be considered for the position, please email DeeDee (DeeDeeM1952@gmail.com) with your resume. The PFLAG - Morgantown board will provide a letter of recommendation to accompany your resume.

“The turnaround time on this is pretty quick: July 3, 2020. So, if you're interested, please let DeeDee know ASAP.”

“City of Morgantown City Hall LGBTQ Liaison

“DRAFT Proposed Job Description

“Purpose – In order to increase certainty that City government works for persons with less protection from employment and housing discrimination and to create a bridge to support diversity and change within the community, the City Council of Morgantown authorizes the establishment of a City Hall LGBTQ liaison to work with the City Manager as recommended for all cities by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. This action is taken to increase assurance that the needs of the LGBTQ citizens are being heard and to enable greater assurance that city policies, regulations, and services can become even more responsive to a wider diversity of residents and businesses.

“Organizational Setting – The City Hall LGBTQ Liaison shall be responsible to the City Manager and advise the City Manager on matters relating LGBTQ concerns, relations with LGBT organizations and opportunities for LGBTQ contributions to the community. The liaison will attend City staff, department and board and commission meetings with communication with the City Manager. In addition, the City Hall LGBTQ Liaison will attend regular meetings of the Human Rights Commission. The City Hall LGBTQ Liaison shall work collaboratively with the Police Department LGBTQ Liaison.

“Duties – The LGBTQ Liaison’s duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

“· Be identified by contact information on the City website.

“· Attend City staff, department and board and commission meetings with communication with the City Manager.

“· Advise City Manager and Human Rights Commission on matters relating to LGBTQ issues and opportunities and serve as a resource to Departments, Commissions and Board as authorized by the City Manager.

“· Be a resource available to the public to ensure that the concerns of LGBTQ citizens are being heard and provide appropriate mediation and consultation when needed.

“· Manage an email box where people can confidently email questions and concerns.

“· With concurrence of City Manager, create internal and external training, programs and events as needed where differences in sexual orientation are better understood, valued and respected.

“Accessibility – The City Hall LGBTQ Liaison will be accessible to the City Manager by telephone/text and to the public and City staff by email.

“Terms – Stipend will be negotiated based on services provided.

“June 25, 2018/Rev. March 19, 2020”



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS: This group “provides social and educational resources for the LGBTQ+ Community, Friends and Allies in Mon. County.” The Pride parade, block party, and after party are scheduled for September 5th. Follow this group’s activities on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/.



WVU DIVERSITY WEEK 2020: This annual event is scheduled for October 11-17.

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow and a web page at wvnow.org. “West Virginia NOW is the state chapter of the National Organization for Women, the country’s largest feminist political organization. As a grassroots nonprofit volunteer organization, WVNOW has a dual focus of supporting local chapters, as well as maintaining a strong legislative presence.

“WVNOW members are committed to fostering a unified intersectional, multigenerational feminist future for West Virginia.”



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Fairness West Virginia’s statement on the U.S. Supreme court decision related to LGBTQ individuals and Title VII is available at fairnesswv.org/2020/06/15/fairness-wvs-statement-on-title-vii-win-for-lgbtq-people/.

Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv.



ACLU AND COVID-19: ACLU West Virginia posts about COVID-19 include www.acluww.org/en/covid-19-and-your-rights and posts from on the numbers and racial disparities at www.acluww.org/en/news/make-covid-19-prison-data-accessible-public and

www.acluww.org/en/news/racial-disparities-jails-and-prisons-covid-19s-impact-black-community.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JULY 2020



07/10 – Baha'i: Martyrdom of the Bab – commemorates the arrest, torture, imprisonment and execution of the Bab

07/23 – Rastafarian: Birthday of Haile Selassie – one of the holiest Rastafarians holidays, it celebrates Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, believed to be the incarnation of God

07/24 – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints: Pioneer Day – commemorates Brigham Young leading believers to the Great Salt Lake, where they would establish their church and Salt Lake City

07/28 – Islamic: The Hajj (7/29-8/2) – begins at sundown, an annual pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia; all able Muslims must make the pilgrimage at least once

07/29 – Jewish: Tisha B'Av begins at sundown – marks the destruction of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and again in 70 CE

07/30 – Islamic: Eid al-Adha – three-day festival ending the Hajj pilgrimage

FROM www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/

