

August 12, 2024

Dear Mayor Compton and Town Council members,

I am resigning today from the leadership team of the advisory Racial and Social Equity Committee because the Town has decided to force us to remove non-residents from the current team, as well as generally exclude non-residents from leadership and the ability to vote in the committee. The non-residents on the leadership team and otherwise involved in our committee have made an enormous and positive contribution to its work. In particular, Chazz Wilson has put in a tremendous effort, including helping to develop and implement several of the committee's activities. Non-residents have provided us with critical perspectives, not least to see ourselves and our Town through the eyes of those outside it, including our neighbors. And they have done this with patience and a genuine good will. The idea that Washington Grove residents have been somehow manipulated or not well-served by non-residents — evident in the Council's decision — is ludicrous and offensive. Given the Town's history of exclusion and institutional racism, I consider it a farce to have a committee on racial and social equity that excludes interested non-residents from its decision making. It's shameful. And I refuse to participate in it.

Tad Stahnke
113 Chestnut Ave
tadstahnke@gmail.com