

Racial Justice Steering Committee Legislative News for 2021

Beyond exploring our understanding of America's complex history and our personal feelings about race, it is critical to support the work that brings about changes necessary to create an anti-racist world. Although it is easy to believe Connecticut is dedicated to racial justice as a progressive state, that simply isn't true. Many of our laws and policies do not reflect a commitment to anti-racist governance and all political parties have participated in supporting those limitations. 2020 was a year of change, opening eyes and hearts to the very damaging and real disparities POC must cope with on a daily basis. 2021 must be the year we begin to act on our new dedication.

You may enjoy spending some time exploring the Connecticut General Assembly website <https://www.cga.ct.gov/default.asp> . You can create an account as a citizen and get alerts on legislation that is important to you here https://www.cga.ct.gov/aspx/cgabiltracking/pub/CGABillTrack_Register.asp.

Rocky Hill's representatives in Hartford are Senator Matt Lesser and Representative Kerry Wood. Both are easily contacted via the CGA website or simply by searching any web browser.

The 2021 Legislative session began on January 6th and there are several proposals regarding racial justice that may be discussed or voted on before the session closes on June 9th. GHIAA (Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance) has provided a toolkit to understand the legislation with supporting stories and resources you can see here <http://cljct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-GHIAA-Legislative-Toolkit-FINAL-1.pdf>

The GHIAA goals for this session are the following:

- Declaring racism a public health crisis
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/TOB/S/PDF/2021SB-00055-R00-SB.PDF>
- Repealing welfare liens
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2020/rpt/pdf/2020-R-0051.pdf>
- The Clean Slate Act
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2020/TOB/S/PDF/2020SB-00403-R00-SB.PDF>

In addition, keep an eye out for proposed changes or repeal of the Police Accountability Act signed by Governor Lamont in 2020. Rocky Hill Town Council voted 7 to 2 on July 31, 2020

(<https://rockyhilltownct.documents-on-demand.com/>) to send a resolution to Governor Lamont to conduct more studies before signing the bill into law. Rocky Hill made a clear statement **against** acting on this important legislation, counter to the effort of improving racial justice in Connecticut. You can view the meeting and discussion via the town YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/RockyHillConnecticut/videos> under **Special Meeting July 31, 2020**. To speak out against this decision and urge our town to support this act, contact Mayor Lisa Marotta and members of Town Council.

If we wish to move toward a more just society it is important to view legislation through the lens of racial justice and the viewpoints of POC in Connecticut. Eliminating unjust laws and policies while supporting new laws that encourage fairness and opportunity are beneficial to all of us.

Valerie Triblets
Racial Justice Steering Committee