

Office Sought: County Executive  
Candidate's Name: Hans Riemer  
Current Occupation: County Councilmember, At-large  
Party: Democratic  
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What have you done, or will you do to ensure the interests of the Caribbean community in Montgomery County are being adequately addressed? **I will continue to build on and deepen our outreach in Caribbean American communities so that the community's leaders and members are actively involved in County boards, commissions, departments, and legislative processes.**

The Caribbean- American Advisory Group (CAAG) was established by former County Executive Isaiah Leggett and continued by the current County Executive Marc Elrich, if you are elected will you support continuity of CAAG in its current form as an autonomous group. **Absolutely! It is important for the experience of our Caribbean American community to have a distinct place where concerns can be developed and voices can be raised to the community and county government.**

Will you proactively encourage and facilitate members of the Caribbean community of Montgomery County to be appointed to County Boards? Please explain what mechanism your office would establish to give effect to this policy. **Absolutely. I would require my staff to regularly share all openings and opportunities with community leaders provided to my office by your group as well as individual leaders from the community. I am open to other recommendations.**

Please explain what policies you would espouse and implement to make Montgomery County a safe haven for undocumented Caribbean immigrants. **I have been working for years to ensure that Montgomery County is a safe place for everyone to live regardless of documentation status. The County's job is to promote quality of life for everyone here without regard for how they got here. I have supported Dreamers and I have fought against deportation through legal assistance. I have supported Trust policies for public safety and county government generally and discounted tuition for undocumented students in Montgomery College. I'll continue expanding all of these policies and more in partnership with you.**

Will you support continuity of Montgomery County as welcoming Caribbean immigrants and settlement of the Region's refugees? **Yes, 100%. I'll make sure that our HHS and Housing teams have adequate resources for resettlement, that our nonprofits are prepared and supported, that our workforce and job opportunity organizations can continue opening doors to a better life here.**

Will you support availability of books by Caribbean authors and about the Caribbean in libraries and in the schools? **Yes, with such an important and prominent Caribbean community here, everyone should learn about the culture, and those from Caribbean American families should absolutely have access to resources.**

It is difficult to balance crime prevention and community safety with trust and improved relations with local law enforcement. How will you work to strike this balance?

**My public safety strategy relies on proven, data-driven strategies to fight crime such as strengthening police management, prioritizing investigations, and investing in prevention. Many studies show that the skill and tenure of police management has a big impact on crime levels in a community. Our county executive has weakened police management by failing to pay managers adequately and not siding with management on needed reforms opposed by the police union. I will strengthen, not weaken our department's management and we will have more success preventing crime and closing cases.**

**Fighting crime and reforming how we do police work are complementary goals not conflicting goals. When communities lack trust in police then they do not report tips that police need to prevent or solve crime, an issue that I think we are improving with our immigrant communities. When communities lack trust in police they don't feel safe from crime or police. As someone who is married to a Black woman and we have two boys -- my personal lens on these issues is a bit different. I am for safety and reform.**

**We need to strengthen our recruitment strategies to bring dedicated young people into police work. We need to recruit more women into the force. Having a culture in the Department that embraces community values and reform will foster a more resilient force with stronger morale.**