

# RACE MATTERS, friends

## Fall 2019 Newsletter

### Save the Dates

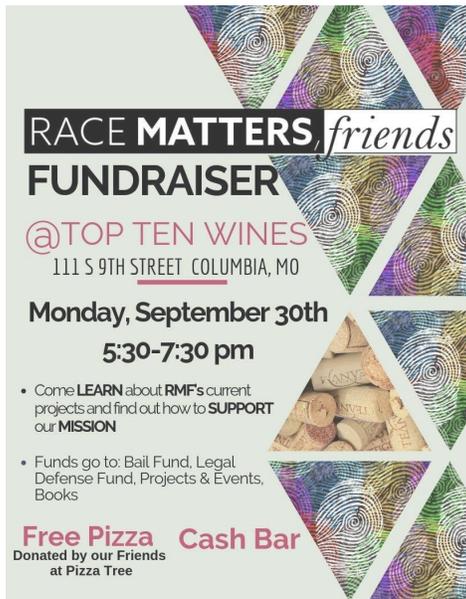
#### Top Ten Wines

111 S 9th Street #160

**September 30**

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us to learn more about RMF and our numerous community projects, plans, and events!



**RACE MATTERS, friends**  
**FUNDRAISER**  
@TOP TEN WINES  
111 S 9TH STREET COLUMBIA, MO  
Monday, September 30th  
5:30-7:30 pm

- Come **LEARN** about RMF's current projects and find out how to **SUPPORT** our **MISSION**
- Funds go to: Bail Fund, Legal Defense Fund, Projects & Events, Books

**Free Pizza Cash Bar**  
Donated by our Friends  
at Pizza Tree

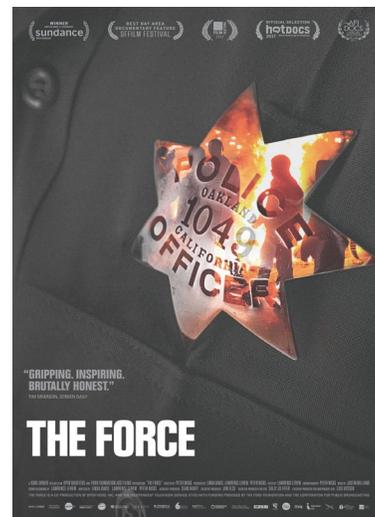
#### Ragtag Cinema

10 Hitt Street

**October 10**

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us as we view "The Force" (TV-MA) & hold an after-movie Panel Discussion with Geoff Jones, CPD Chief of Police; and S. David Mitchell, MU Law Professor.



# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

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# RACE MATTERS, friends

## Racial Equity Needs You!

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp

When Race Matters Friends became a 501(c)(3) in 2015 we could not have imagined how much work we would be taking on. Both the scope and depth of our work with the community continues to grow as our focus on racial disparities in the local criminal justice system has expanded to other issues on racial equity. Our major areas of operation now include:

- Police force accountability towards community policing
- Policy de/construction through city's Vehicle Stop Report Committee
- Family advocacy where involvement with social services is racialized/criminalized
- Family advocacy for equitable treatment/discipline of minority/special needs school children
- Community Bail Fund to secure the release of citizens (unnecessarily) incarcerated for non-violent crimes
- Long-term engagement with the agencies and entities implicated in matters of racial and social inequity



# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

## We Need You!

Time, brain power, and most of all your heart, will keep RMF at the forefront of racial equity in Columbia. Join us as an advocate for projects mentioned above and more:

Support. Share your skills! Help train membership on...

- Effective Communications, Public Speaking
- Op-Eds, Press/Social Media Releases
- PowerPoint, Word, Excel
- Data Interpretation
- Subject Matter Training
- Financial/Accounting Skills
- Legal Guidance
- Social Networking
- Grant Writing
- Small Group /Team/Project Management



Contribute. Join the effort! Help by...

- Researching local issues and relationships in our areas of involvement
- Engaging with professional, social, and personal communities
- Addressing policy and conversations at City Council, Boards, and other Public Entities
- Drafting communique for public release sympathetic to our efforts
- Organizing or participating in planned events
- Organizing or participating in fund-raising efforts
- Recording Audio/Video
- Audio/Video Editing
- Helping maintain RMF Reference Library via Zotero
- Helping populate tags/description/closed captioning of posted material
- Serving as courier/support/assistant when bailing persons from jail
- ... serving in any number of roles that emerge as our capacity grows

# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

Donated skills and labor are essential to our sustained efforts. Money is also an unfortunate necessity, particularly in our Bail Fund effort which is particularly cash intensive. In addition to contributing your direct support, please consider cash donations and support our efforts in fundraising.

Race Matter, Friends has created several funds with corresponding financial goals.

Bail Fund	\$60000	<p>As of 9/17/2019, the RMF Community Bail Fund (started in March 2019) has secured the release of 29 persons at a total cost of ~\$26,000.</p> <p>\$18,000 is still tied up in the system, awaiting trial dates and refund processing.</p> <p>The average collection time is 45 days, although some cases have been lingering for 180+ days.</p> <p>The court system has assessed fees that have reduced the amount of refunds by ~\$2,600; or 32% of the face value of refunded bails to date.</p> <p>At present, we are unable to respond to the number of qualified cases being unnecessarily held by an unjust system.</p>
Legal Defense (Project)	\$25000	<p>One of our programs entails a Legal Defense Fund, established to support young people of color who lack the financial resources to hire adequate legal counsel in cases of racially motivated legal transgression. This fund allows us to intervene and bring otherwise invisible injustices to public visibility.</p>
General Fund	\$4500	<p>This fund sustains most of our day-to-day operations. Expenses entail website, bail phone plan, space rental, transcription services, sunshine requests, targeted travel, conference fees, educational events, books, etc.).</p>

# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

Donations are accepted via link on our website main page:

<https://racemattersfriends.com>

Please consider donating substantially to our funds! There is an option to make monthly contributions - which we encourage. Also, please note for which fund you would like the donation to be deposited.

Donate to  
Race Matters Friends

\$200.00  
USD

(Optional) Use this donation for ▾

(Optional) Use this donation for  
Bail Fund  
Projects  
General Funds

Donate with PayPal

or

Donate with a Debit or Credit Card

We are registered with Amazon Smile as a charitable organization! Please consider using <https://smile.amazon.com> for your Amazon purchases, and set up Race Matters, Friends as your charitable organization!



## VSR Committee: A seat at the table

Lynn Maloney

Race Matters, Friends (RMF) has spoken at City Council meetings since August 2015 to raise and sustain conversations around social justice issues such as racial equity, particularly those items on Council's agenda that have a direct impact on social equity. Our positions and comments draw upon academic and professional literature on policing, democracy, and racial equity; documents created by the city; and reflections on our experience engaging as citizens. We have had several speakers with professional expertise based in sociology, psychology, and education; although, most of us speak from our participation in meetings hosted by city staff, Columbia Public Schools, and meetings that we have initiated with organizational or city staff.

RMF has a seat at the table of Vehicle Stops Report (VSR) Committee formed by Police Chief Geoff Jones towards the end of 2018. We contribute to the conversation by discussing data analysis, offering interpretation of the VSR data, and suggesting change recommendations to police policy that aims to decrease the racial disparities indicated in these data. On August 13, 2019, our colleague Tara Warne-Grigges presented *Contextualizing Vehicle Stops, Is There a Cost Benefit to Disproportionate Stops by Race?*

# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

We also urged the City to provide quality minutes for the Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB) in an effort to give the public more detailed information about the board's deliberations or lack thereof. Please take a quick review the July 22, 2019, [Citizens Police Review Board \(CPRB\)](#) -- Yes, it's a head-scratcher.

Raising the level of conversation about accountability and transparency for our city's police department, budget, judicial system, and school system is an essential part of addressing racial disparities and building public trust. Whether you are a professional, expert, or interested citizen, *we need your help* in attending meetings, taking notes, and preparing comments. These are all vital components of our work, and we invite you to join us in *#doing.the.work*.

City Council meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00pm at City Hall. If you wish to address the Council, sign up by noon on the Wednesday prior to the scheduled meeting. The link to sign up for scheduled public comments can be found at <http://www.como.gov/council/meeting-policies>. For additional questions or coordination, please contact the Office of the City Clerk (Sheela Amin).

# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

## Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Race Matters, Friends has been advocating for parents whose children are being penalized unjustly by Columbia Public Schools. Have an experience to share? [[click](#)]

### Account of Interactions with Columbia Public School Systems

Chad McLaurin, RMF

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 - Over the course of this past calendar year (2019), we have been engaged with various administrative leaders within the Columbia Public Schools system... As part of our (ongoing) efforts, we analyze the broader context of school policies and practices, as well as statistical data that we glean from the CPS online data portal: Tableau Dashboards, <https://www.cpsk12.org/Page/15761...>

Statistical reporting systems are an invaluable tool but are only as useful as their construction and integrity of their data entry permits. Taken as presented, we have noticed a few discrepancies by which CPS gathers and reports its measures...

The Chief Equity Officer... (and) Superintendent... utilize this data as part of school operations - to include analysis of policies, their impact, trends, and staff overall. That this data is still showing enormous disparities is not simply gross and alarming but is thoroughly entrenched and systemic in nature... The problem is further exacerbated by the apparent neglect with which these individuals approach their responsibilities as stewards of our childrens' safety and well-being...

[[Continue Reading](#)]

### Halting the School to Prison Pipeline

Renee Carter, RMF

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 - Our local school district mission needed to be to improve equity for all students and replace retributive justice practices with restorative justice practices but has fallen short.

One of the most important starting points is with accurate data keeping. While reviewing data collected by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Office of Civil Rights and CPS, I found a lack of progress, discrepancies and omissions in our local data. CPS has data tables, but they are currently missing.

What we see instead is the "Big Rocks" data report. Data provided shows declines in attendance, reading scores, and graduation rates and increases in Out of School Suspensions for Black students and students with disabilities.

There is no data there for In- School Suspensions, seclusion, and restraints. This is an unacceptable way to present data. Accuracy and thoroughness in the data are missing...

[[Continue Reading](#)]

# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

## Press Releases

### [Race Matters, Friends Calls for Columbia Public Schools Equity Officer, Carla London to Resign](#)

COLUMBIA, MO. SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 -- After weeks of seeking evidence to support the efficacy of Columbia Public School's (CPS) equity and restorative practice education and training, Race Matters, Friends (RMF) has determined that the district's Chief Equity Officer (CEO) Carla London should resign. Listen on KBIA:

<https://www.kbia.org/post/local-group-call-resignation-cps-chief-equity-officer#stream/0>

## In the News

### [CPD Officer Faces Discipline for Wrongful Arrest at Smithton Middle School](#)

Nguyen, T. (2019, Sep. 5). Retrieved from

[https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/k12\\_education](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/k12_education)

COLUMBIA, MO. SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 -- The mother of the student wrongfully arrested, Kandas Holmes-Barnes, said Thursday she's glad that the police sustained the complaint, which was referred to the Internal Affairs office by the Human Rights Commission. Holmes-Barnes filed a complaint at that agency in May, alleging that her daughter, who is black, had been racially profiled.

### [Discrimination Complaint Filed in Connection with Smithton Middle Incident](#)

Gilbert, H. M., & Hoffmeister, H. (2019, May 10). Retrieved from

[https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/k12\\_education](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/k12_education)

COLUMBIA, MO. MAY 10, 2019 -- A complaint filed Tuesday with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights against a principal, counselor, teacher, secretary and student at Smithton Middle School alleges that an eighth-grade student was racially profiled when she was arrested for fighting.

### [Discussing Equity, Restorative Practices and Policing in Columbia Public Schools](#)

Steele, S. (2019, Sep. 11). Retrieved from <https://www.kbia.org>

# RACE MATTERS, friends

## Fall Schedule

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. Discussion begins at 6:00pm

Bethel Church  
201 E Plank Rd  
Columbia, MO 65203

## Current Reading List

[The color of law: A forgotten history of how our government segregated America.](#)

Rothstein, R. (2017). *Liverright*. ISBN: 978-1631492853

[The hate u give.](#) Thomas, A. (2017). *Balzer + Bray*. ISBN: 978-0062498533

## Guests & Topics

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<b>10/9</b> John Glascock, City Manager: <i>Layperson's Guide to the Budget</i>	<b>10/23</b> Geoff Jones, Chief of Police
<b>11/13</b> Randy Cole, Housing Programs Manager: <a href="#"><i>Fostering Equitable and Inclusive Neighborhoods</i></a>	<b>11/20</b> Art & Books Discussion: <i>The Color of Law</i> <i>The Hate U Give</i>
<b>12/11</b> Work Session: <i>Thank-You Cards, Donor Appreciation Cards, &amp; Holiday Cards</i>	<b>12/18</b> <i>End of the Year... What's Next?</i>

# RACE MATTERS, *friends*

## Contact Information

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp, *President*. 573-239-0858

Lynn Maloney, *Vice President*. 573-424-6108

Chad McLaurin, *Treasurer*

David Aguayo, *Secretary*

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[racemattersfriendscomo@gmail.com](mailto:racemattersfriendscomo@gmail.com)

## Follow Us

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/racemattersfriends>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkbBM6V9iFq18CSQ2cww-aA/videos>

Race Matters, Friends ([www.racemattersfriends.com](http://www.racemattersfriends.com)) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to anti-racism education, community consciousness-raising, and social equity. Since 2015, the group has been a persistent advocate for Community-Oriented Policing.

Since 2019, the group has expanded by establishing a Community Bail Fund and serving as advocate for minority and special needs school children within the Columbia Public Schools system, and its relationship with Columbia Police Department and the Juvenile Authorities.