

The
WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
celebrates
BLACK HISTORY AND HERITAGE
MONTH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

Live streamed from the Board Chamber
<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks & Acknowledgements
Legislator Benjamin Boykin II, Chairman

Presentation of Proclamations



RIDVAN FOXHALL
Presented by Legislator Colin D. Smith



JOAN GRANGENOIS-THOMAS
Presented by Legislator Nancy Barr

Benjamin Boykin II
Board Chair
Legislator, 5th District

Colin D. Smith
Legislator, 1st District

Kitley S. Covill
Legislator, 2nd District

Margaret A. Cunzio
Minority Leader
Legislator, 3rd District

Vedat Gashi
Legislator, 4th District

Nancy E. Barr
Legislator, 6th District

Catherine F. Parker
Legislator, 7th District

Alfreda A. Williams
Vice Chair
Legislator, 8th District

Catherine Borgia
Legislator, 9th District

Damon R. Maher
Legislator, 10th District

Terry Clements
Legislator, 11th District

MaryJane Shimsky
Majority Leader
Legislator, 12th District

Tyrae Woodson-Samuels
Legislator, 13th District

David J. Tubiolo
Legislator, 14th District

Ruth Walter
Legislator, 15th District

Christopher A. Johnson
Majority Whip
Legislator, 16th District

José I. Alvarado
Legislator, 17th District





RIDVAN FOXHALL

Ridvan Foxhall is guided by her belief in the oneness of humanity. She is dedicated to promoting the conviction in young people that they can be the voice of positive change in the world. To this end, for over two decades, she has committed her time, energy and resources to develop creative and educational programs for children with an emphasis on developing their moral capabilities alongside their intellectual and artistic talent.

In 2006, inspired by the Children's Theatre Company (CTC), a non-profit organization based in NYC dedicated to "building character on stage," she founded a Peekskill chapter of CTC. In 2013, New Era Creative Space (NECS) came into being, in response to the growing need for educational programs that were both creative and provided children with the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Ridvan's vision for NECS was to become a hub for creative initiatives, community engagement and to inspire the next generation of mindful and innovative thinkers. She is also active as a member and a youth advisor in the Peekskill branch of the NAACP, and she sits on the Westchester Youth Alliance Advisory Board.

Ridvan holds a Masters degree in Occupational Therapy and is a certified Parenting Educator. Originally from Nigeria, she currently resides in Peekskill with her husband and two children. She enjoys reading, dancing, playing tennis and hiking.



JOAN GRANGENOIS-THOMAS

Joan Grangenois-Thomas is a local leader, community organizer, and government official in Port Chester. Joan became involved in her community while raising her children, serving on School Board Advisory Committees, on the PTA, including as PTA President of the Thomas A. Edison School, and as Co-Chair of the Port Chester Cares Community Coalition. In 2015, Joan founded a book club, Read, Talk, Act (RTA), which brings together people of different backgrounds to understand racism and discrimination, and encourages them to effect change.

Joan has been a member of the Port Chester NAACP since 2008, serving on their Executive Committee and as their President, was the Executive Director of the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance, and in 2014, was honored by the Westchester County Human Rights Commission for her swift response to racially charged flyers distributed in Port Chester.

In 2019, Joan was elected Village of Port Chester Trustee. She is the first woman of color and only the second woman in almost twenty years to serve on this Board. Joan was Co-Chair of the Port Chester 2020 Complete Count Census Committee and organized a peaceful rally of over 2000 people after George Floyd's murder.

Joan is also an entrepreneur; her business, JGT Public Relations, works exclusively with nonprofit and social enterprise organizations. Joan recently became District Director for U.S. Congressman Mondaire Jones, CD-17.