

## Our Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Social Injustice

We want to extend our support as we begin the new academic year in the midst of both the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement. As an organization dedicated to helping support John Glenn students in their future leadership roles, we would like to provide an informative update on the plans we have going forward in regards to advocating for and educating ourselves and our members on racial injustices, public health crises, and self-care practices.

### **ICMA's Role**

The purpose of ICMA is to connect local policy-making to the community sectors of which they intervene and impact. We have created action items (outlined below), which we will implement into our current and future programming to further elevate, support, and advocate for our members and any other interested students. The recent and ongoing events in our nation and around the world have compelled us to examine more closely the goals of ICMA and our importance within these events.

### Pledges & corresponding action items:

#### **Pledge 1: Implement more inclusive and culturally competent programming that aligns with current issues of racism, public health, and the intersecting policy fields.**

- Action: Collaborate with city managers, local leaders, and experts to design a Mini Series of events focusing on current nationwide events and how citizens are (or will be) impacted in their localities. These sessions will serve to provide insight for how change is promoted within our community in various sectors, including but not limited to: social services and mental health, public safety and the police, the criminal justice system, education, and public health.

#### **Pledge 2: Establish real-world learning opportunities in a multitude of policy areas to encourage our members to make tangible changes in their communities in their interested sector(s).**

- Action: Provide access to a diverse array of shadowing opportunities, internships, and networking experiences for our members to exercise their skills in real world settings.

#### **Pledge 3: Cultivate an inclusive space to encourage diverse voices and perspectives and increase support for our members.**

- Action: Support PAMSO's and Glenn College's call to A) recruit more diverse students, faculty, and staff and B) improve anti-racist and inclusive practices.
- Action: Collaborate with John Glenn organizations and other OSU colleges and student organizations to empower students in their respective disciplines to pursue their passions as they relate to local public policy.

#### **Pledge 4: Consistently educate ourselves and maintain a state of constant improvement by listening to John Glenn students and the Black community.**

- Action: Follow PAMSO (Public Affairs Multicultural Student Organization) in their mission to incorporate more inclusive activities in the Glenn College.

- Action: Encourage professors to implement a curriculum that includes diverse and up-to-date content and discussions about inclusivity.
- Action: Through our Mini Series, incorporate an environment of active listening and learning about the racial and cultural implications of policy changes. We will continue by advocating for changes in local policy, especially with regards to public health, the criminal justice system, education, and social services.

### **Autumn 2020 Events**

We are planning two events and an ongoing series for the fall semester. Each will be conducted via Zoom and open to all students, with recordings available for those unable to attend.

1. **OCMA Roundtable with City/Village Managers** *September 10th at 7pm*  
City/Village managers will discuss their role in city government, how they navigate politics and conflict management in the office, and the impacts and their responses to current events, including the Covid-19 pandemic, city-wide protests, and racial injustices.
2. **Local Election Event** *September 30th at 7pm*  
Guest speakers will present to members and discuss how we respond to nationwide/worldwide crises on a local level to make genuine and tangible changes, making the local election particularly necessary this year.
3. **Mini Series** *October and ongoing*  
A series of events will be dedicated to discussing different sectors of public policy and the ways in which each sector is impacted during transformative events.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

As the health of our students is of the utmost importance, we want to extend our support to you all personally. If you would like to speak with/email us, please don't hesitate to reach out.