

Press Release

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative (GMLKCI) Presents: A Community Conversation: Juvenile Justice Reform.

The GMLKCI invites you to a Community Conversation on June 13 at the Riverfront Community Center. This free event will begin with a reception at 6:30 and a panel discussion will follow at 7:00. Registration will be provided at the door.

For those who prefer to participate virtually, this event will also be available via a Zoom Webinar. Registration is required. To register, go to GMLKCI's webpage at www.glastonburymlkci.org and click on "Register". Or click on the following URL: <https://tinyurl.com/MLKjustice20>.

Moderator:

Jacqueline Rabe Thomas is an investigative reporter with Connecticut Public's Accountability Project.

She has won two national awards for investigative reporting from the Education Writers Association; first in 2012 for uncovering hefty pay raises and extended vacations for top officials at the state's public college system, and then in 2020 for exposing the obstacles that prevent poor people from finding decent housing. Her ongoing coverage of housing inequality – co-published with ProPublica -- also won the investigative award from the New England Newspaper & Press Association in 2019 and 2020. She was also part of the team that won the NENPA Publick Occurrences Award in 2020 for coverage of the COVID crisis in Connecticut nursing homes. In 2012, she was named the nation's top education beat reporter and was the runner up for the national award for single topic news coverage for a series on school funding disparities in 2016 (and certain legislators landing earmarks for their districts). In 2018, she won the Theodore Driscoll Award for Investigative Reporting from the Connecticut Society for Professional Journalists for a deep dive into the substandard health care being provided to prisoners.

Jacqueline's reporting has appeared in ProPublica, Mother Jones, Long Reads, and daily newspapers across Connecticut. Jacqueline has also been a reporter, online editor and website developer for The Washington Post Co.'s Maryland newspaper chains. She has also worked for Congressional Quarterly and the Toledo Free Press. Jacqueline received an undergraduate degree in journalism from Bowling Green State University and a master's in public policy from Trinity College. She has also taught at the University of Connecticut's School of Business.

Panelists:

Christina Quaranta is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Justice Alliance (CTJA) a youth-adult partnership public policy and advocacy organization located in Bridgeport, CT. CTJA's mission is to end the criminalization of youth. Christina has been with CJJA for over five years

and became the ED in 2021, previously serving in numerous other roles in the organization. Christina pushes for legal system reform that recognizes youth, families and communities as the most important stakeholders. More broadly, she is committed to dismantling systemic racism across Connecticut so all people can be free to realize their potential. The youth and families she works with are a constant inspiration to her. She wants their voices to be heard, respected, and incorporated into the policy discussions that will impact their lives.

Christina holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University and a master's degree in Public Administration, with a concentration in nonprofit management from Fairfield University. When Christina is not boldly advocating for meaningful policy change, she enjoys spending time with her husband, dog, and daughter. Her favorite hobbies include travel, going to the beach, and trying new adventures.

Jason Doucette is in his 2nd term representing Manchester and Glastonbury in the Connecticut House of Representatives District 13. He serves as the House Chair of the Banking Committee and is a member of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee and the Judiciary Committee. Jason is an attorney with the firm of Gagliardi Doucette.

Jason has a long record of civic and government involvement including serving on the Manchester Board of Directors (Town Council). He is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and University of Connecticut School of Law. He is a 3rd generation resident of Manchester where he currently resides with his wife Heather and sons Teddy and Charlie. He has been an active volunteer with many organizations in the community including as a coach with Manchester Little League and past President of CAST Children's Theatre, among others.

Jason played an active role in discussions on juvenile justice reform over the past few years helping to build consensus on the Judiciary Committee and within the House Democratic caucus for the recent legislation and judicial reforms.

Ken Barone is a Project Manager with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at University of Connecticut. Since 2012, Ken has managed the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project (CTRP3) to implement the state of Connecticut's Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling law which requires law enforcement agencies to collect information on traffic stops and report that information to Central Connecticut State University. Ken is responsible for coordinating data collection and submission from 106 law enforcement agencies. He works with the Connecticut Data Collaborative to make the data available to the public through an online data portal. He has co-authored three reports analyzing municipal and state police data for evidence of discrimination. In addition, he is responsible for staffing the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board, three subcommittees and is the legislative liaison for the project with the Connecticut General Assembly. Ken is also a certified Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services "Fair and Impartial Police" trainer. He has trained over 800 law enforcement officers since 2014.

In addition, Ken also manages the Connecticut law that requires the collection and analysis of incidents involving electronic defense weapons. Ken has co-authored reports on the use of

electronic defense weapons by local and state police, the regulation of transportation network companies in Connecticut and on the Connecticut law to raise the age of juvenile offenders to 18. He has provided project assistance to the Juvenile Jurisdiction Policy and Operations Coordinating Council, the Connecticut Re-entry Roundtable Collaborative, and the Institute's Children of Incarcerated Parent's initiative.

Warren Hardy is a dedicated youth development professional and street mediator. Born and raised in Hartford, Mr. Hardy graduated from Weaver High in 1992. He gained street knowledge in the 90's from within one of Hartford's notorious gangs, "20 Love." Upon returning from a 12-year prison sentence for racketeering and gang affiliation in 2000, Warren changed his life and mentality from a negative to a positive, committing the rest of his life to the service of spreading a message of empowerment and ending community violence. He began the work of educating young men about the dangers of gang activity, moving from Victim to Victory, spreading his knowledge with a vengeance for peace. Since his release he volunteered for over six years in service to his community before being employed as a youth outreach intervention specialist. From 2007 to 2012 Warren led a team of first responders and served that capacity himself to address gang violence crises in Hartford and surrounding areas with the COMPASS Peacebuilders. Warren has received the Governor's award for outstanding work with community residents through the Faith Works Initiative.

Warren holds a B.A. in Human Services from Springfield College and is founder and CEO of H.Y.P.E. (Helping Young People Evolve). He is a certified Level I Kingian Nonviolence trainer and serves on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence. Mr. Hardy has given talks and facilitated workshops at Harvard, Yale, UCONN, Columbia, Trinity College, Capital Community College, Manchester Community College, Public Schools in Hartford, New Britain, Rockville, CREC Crossroads High School, local YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs and churches across New England and internationally.

Warren is a member of the Men of Color Initiative, North End Church of Christ and Lift Every Voice and Sing, and is a volunteer for Shiloh Baptist Church, the Fatherhood Initiative and the Buddy Breakfast Program.

Marshall S. Porter is the Chief of Police in Glastonbury, Connecticut, appointed in November 2017. Chief Porter has been a police officer since 1989. He previously served as the Captain/Executive Officer in Farmington, Connecticut (1994-2017), and as a patrol officer in the Winchester, New Hartford, and Harwinton Police Departments.

Chief Porter has held the rank of Narcotics Detective, Corporal, Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, and Lieutenant during his career with the Farmington Police Department. He has represented the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association on the Private Security Committee, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and the Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group. He is the current Capital Region Chiefs of Police Association President and sits on the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association Board of Directors.

Chief Porter has earned an Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Northwestern Connecticut Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Finance from Central Connecticut State University, and a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Central Connecticut State University.

Host: The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative’s mission is to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. We believe that bringing people together discuss openly and honestly important issues relating to social justice will help build a more inclusive and tolerant community.

The goal of the GMLKCI Community Conversations program is to engage residents of Glastonbury and surrounding towns in conversations about social justice issues. We believe – especially in today's climate – that we must identify common ground between and among citizens rather than continue to exploit differences. In this way, we can foster meaningful relationships and dialogue and forge a better community.

Our goal is for our panelists to provide both a starting point and a resource for what we hope will be an inspiring, lively, informative, and thought-provoking conversation.

This is a free event open to all. For additional information, please contact David O’Connor at 860-810-2368 or visit www.glastonburymlkci.org.

This will be both in-person and virtual components for this Community Conversation. The virtual component will utilize Zoom Webinar. You do not need a Zoom account in order to join our meeting and you can join for free. Participants can join our meeting from their phone, desktop computer, mobile or tablet devices.

Registration for the virtual component of this Community Conversation is required. To register please log onto the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative web page at www.glastonburymlkci.org and click on “Register.”