



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

News Release

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Russell Takes Reins as County's Human Relations Director

FREDERICK, Md. – Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater has hired an investigator with over three decades of experience to revive the county's Human Relations Department. Anthony Russell began this week as Director of Human Relations. This department within the Office of Equity and Inclusion is charged with investigating discrimination complaints in housing, employment, and public accommodations, as well as educating the community through trainings, outreach, and initiatives. The director also serves as the primary staff contact for the Human Relations Commission.



“People need to know they have an advocate when they face discrimination in our community,” said County Executive Fitzwater, “and Anthony brings extensive skills, knowledge, and commitment to the position of Human Relations Director.”

“We are excited to have someone with his skillset and interest in public good to lead the effort in educating our entire community on the very critical matter of human rights,” said Frederick County Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Michael Hughes. “Frederick County Government is committed to addressing injustices and providing leadership in creating a community where each of us is equally valued for the humanity that we share. We are fortunate to have Anthony join us in this effort.”

Mr. Russell brings an extensive background in investigating discrimination. During his 34 years as a Baltimore County Police officer, he spent 18 years as the department’s Fair Practices Liaison. He monitored nationwide trends in discrimination and served as the primary educator for sexual harassment and discrimination training.

Mr. Russell earned his master’s degree in management and executive leadership and a bachelor’s degree in management, both from Johns Hopkins University. Additionally, he has specialized training in mediation, conflict management resolution, employment discrimination, and cultural diversity, among other topics.

People who believe they have been discriminated against in housing, employment, or public accommodations in Frederick County can contact the [Human Relations Department](#) by calling 301-600-1110.

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