

*Revitalizing and Reimagining the DMV after COVID-19 Event Series*

## A Vision for a More Equitable DC Region

### Speaker Biographies

**Karla Bruce** serves as the Chief Equity Officer for Fairfax County, Virginia. She has over 25 years of local government management experience and is known as a driver of innovation in public service delivery, bridging the efforts of local government with the collective action of residents and broad networks of partners to strategically address issues. Karla successfully championed the adoption of the county's One Fairfax Racial and Social Equity Resolution and Policy and, as Chief Equity Officer, designed and provides overall management of the One Fairfax strategic framework, advising and supporting the Board of Supervisors and county leadership and staff in shaping and directing policy and practice to foster equitable opportunity for all Fairfax County residents. Karla currently serves as the chair for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Chief Equity Officers Committee and is a member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity Steering Committee.

**Dr. Amber A. Hewitt** is the Chief Equity Officer for the Government of the District of Columbia. In this role, she works in collaboration with District leadership and agencies to apply a racial equity lens across government operations. In 2018, she was appointed by Mayor Bowser to the Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys. Amber was the Director of Health Equity at Families USA, a national, nonpartisan consumer health advocacy organization. She also previously worked as a health care lobbyist for an integrated, children's health system. Amber's background also includes serving as an American Psychological Association/ American Association for the Advancement of Science health policy fellow in the Office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker. She began her career as a tenure-track professor teaching undergraduate and doctorate-level courses in psychology, social justice, multicultural counseling and diversity issues at the University of Akron and Loyola University Chicago. Her research on adolescent identity development and well-being, with a special focus on Black boys and young men, has been published in several top-tier academic journals. A counseling psychologist by training, Amber has provided psychotherapy and psychoeducational testing for children and families. She received her B.S. in biological sciences from the University of Southern California, M.A. in psychology from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Loyola University Chicago.

**Peter A. Tatian** is a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and research director for Urban-Greater DC. He is an expert on US housing policy, particularly housing assistance and affordable housing preservation. He advises nonprofits on performance management and evaluation and heads Urban's work providing technical assistance on data collection and use to grantees of the US Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods initiative. Tatian directed the evaluation of the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program, which has provided counseling services to more than 1 million troubled homeowners. He has also studied the impacts of public and supportive housing on neighborhoods and worked on housing policy reform in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Tatian is a member of the DC Local Initiatives Support Corporation advisory committee, the Park Morton New Communities Initiative steering committee, and the United Planning Organization community reinvestment advisory council.

**Tiffany Ward** is currently the Chief Equity Officer in Montgomery County, MD. As the Chief Equity Officer, she is charged with training county staff on the core tenets of racial equity and examining county policies and practices for their short and long-term effects on racial disparities. Tiffany has dedicated her 20 plus year career to creating a more fair and equitable world for people of color. During her 15-year career in local government she has focused on education, health and human services and housing policy. She spent the early years of her career working with youth serving organizations to bring resources and opportunities to young people who were capable and talented but who lacked the financial resources needed to create good lives for themselves. Before her career in local government she worked in the labor movement on voting rights issues, including felon re-enfranchisement and voter protection campaigns. Throughout her life the values of justice, fairness and community building have been her guide. Tiffany is a graduate of Tufts University.