

## WE HAVE A DREAM: A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM

### **NOVEMBER, 2020 - White Supremacists Groups Are Growing?**

We began with prayer.

We gave an example of systemic racism. If one focused only on the racism of death sentencing, one would miss the other racist parts of the criminal justice system such as policing, arrest, arraignment, bail, prosecution, sentencing, probation, parole and the permanent deprivation of rights and opportunities because of a felony record. The overrepresentation of black persons incarcerated relative to their percent of the population speaks volumes.

We had guest speakers, Justin Sanders and Jill Sanders. Justin used his current research as a writer to educate us on the white supremacists groups across the country and their influence. Beginning with the Wilmington Insurrection and subsequent Jim Crow laws, we learned about the increasing number of groups, a backlash to a black President and then a white President who encouraged them. The concerns raised actually came to fruition on January 6, 2021, with the storming of the Capital.

Jill works in the area of Urban Civil Rights and Equity. We explored the war on drugs and how that changed police enforcement and prompted current events such as the “Defund the Police” movement. We discussed actions we can take. Since the Maryland legislature would soon be in session, we identified legislation for greater transparency in the police department and asked all to sign the petition we had for our Senators asking for support.

Participants shared their research of Mother Mary Lange. We asked them to next research Frederick Douglass.

We ended with prayer.