



# NEWS RELEASE

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July 1, 2020

## **On Deck: Town Manager to lead community conversations about Black experience and law enforcement**

A panel of Town of Vienna employees and residents will share personal experiences about being Black in America and Vienna in the first of a series of On Deck with Mercury conversations to address racism and law enforcement. Hosted by Town Manager Mercury Payton, this first conversation will take place from 6-8 pm Tuesday, July 14, in the Vienna Community Center gymnasium.

Because space in the community center gym is limited to about 70 due to physical-distancing requirements, registration for this event is required and open to Town of Vienna residents only. Registration is available at [viennava.gov/ondeck](http://viennava.gov/ondeck). Should space remain available, the Town will open the event to those who live outside of Town of Vienna corporate limits. If more than 70 people register, a lottery will be held. The Town will provide overflow space in another location if necessary, and the event will be streamed live on YouTube.

The August 11 On Deck with Mercury event will focus on law enforcement and use of force. A wrap-up conversation related to these topics and finding a path forward in Vienna is scheduled for September 8.

On Deck with Mercury was created in the spring as a casual, in-person, monthly community forum hosted by Payton. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, these events were moved to a video format; the July On Deck will be the first in-person event. In “normal” times, On Deck with Mercury provides an opportunity for Town residents to learn about recent projects and accomplishments of the Town, receive a preview of upcoming initiatives, and ask questions and have an open discussion.

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