



THE **LINUX** FOUNDATION
SPRING MEMBER MEETING

Call for Code for Racial Justice project: Open Sentencing

IBM

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**“Not everything
that is faced can
be changed, but
nothing can be
changed until it
is faced.”**

- James Arthur Baldwin, American novelist -



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Build solutions that fight back.



2020

2020 Call for Code for Racial Justice: In response to the murders of George Floyd, and too many others, Black IBMers, in their pain, frustration, and exhaustion, had a moment of clarity. They had a vision of an America without social unrest – a vision of using technology to help combat systemic racism.



2020

2020 Climate Change: Having previously focused on the effects of climate change in past years, in 2020 we asked developers, data scientists, and other subject matter experts to go after the cause, by creating solutions that help halt and reverse the effects of climate change in our world. This includes solutions that concentrate on water sustainability, energy sustainability, and disaster resiliency.



2020

2020 COVID-19: In a very short period, COVID-19 revealed the limits of the systems we take for granted. This challenge looked for solutions that address three main areas: crisis communication during an emergency, ways to improve remote learning, and how to inspire cooperative local communities.



2019

2019 focused on **Natural Disasters**, with an emphasis on the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

2018

2018 Natural Disasters: This global challenge looked to build solutions that significantly improve preparedness for natural disasters and accelerate relief when they hit.

Call for Code for Racial Justice

Call for Code for Racial Justice encourages the adoption, incubation and evolution of open-source projects to drive progress in three key areas:



Police, Judicial Reform and Accountability

From traffic stops and arrests to sentencing and parole decisions, use technology to better analyze real-world data, provide insights, and make recommendations that will drive racial equality and reform across criminal justice and public safety.



Diverse Representation

Leverage technology to prevent, detect, and remediate bias and misrepresentation in the workplace, products, society, etc.



Policy and Legislation Reform

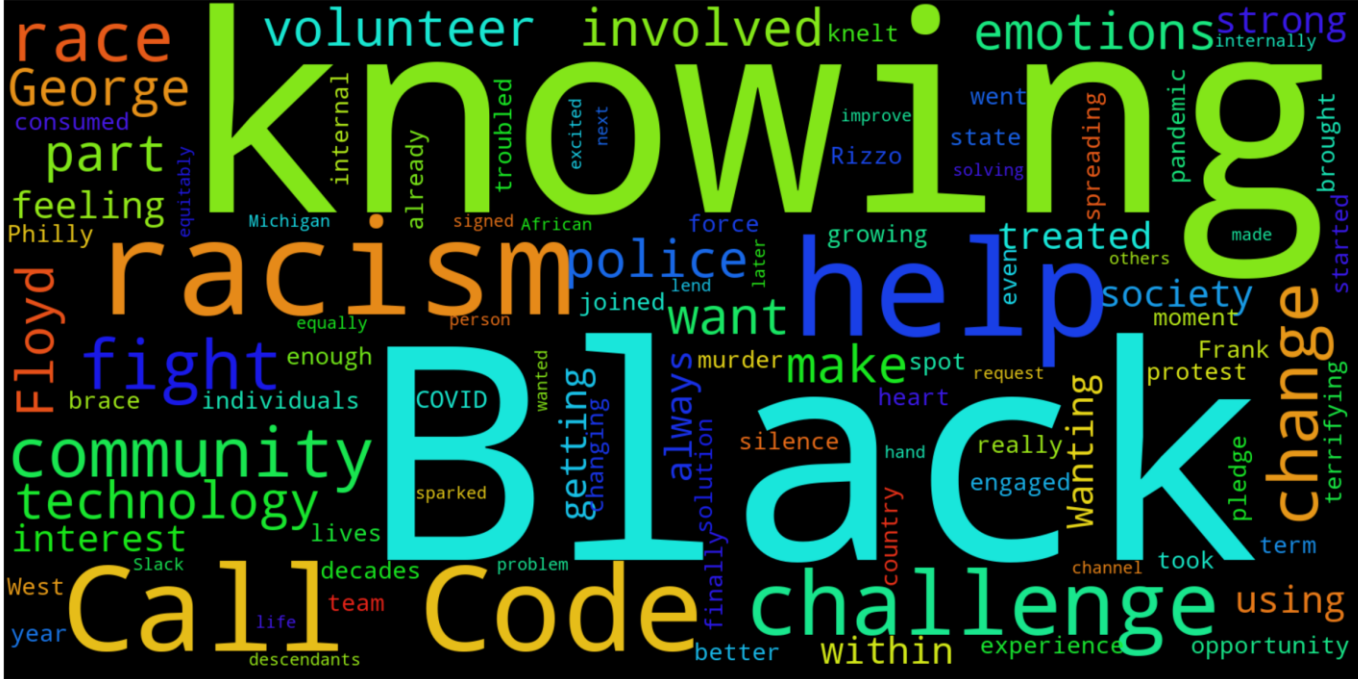
Utilize technology to analyze, inform, and develop policy to reform the workplace, products, public safety and legislation.

Open Sentencing Team

Our team of wonderful volunteers from all over the world were motivated to come up with a solution to help fight systemic racism!

Many were motivated after the tragic events in the USA in 2020 and wanted to help.

What inspired us to participate?



Theme

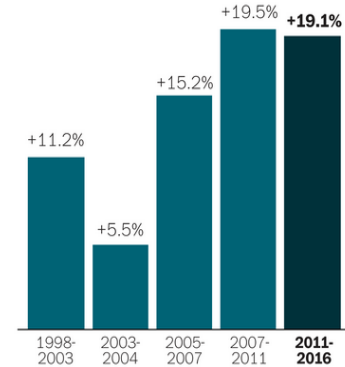
Police & Judicial and Accountability Reform

Problem Statement

People in the Black Community are faced with harsher downstream effects (charged at higher rates, assigned more significant charges, convicted at higher rates, given longer sentences, and denied parole more often) than people of other races for similar offenses.

Same crimes, different times

Percentage difference in sentence length for black men, versus white men with similar backgrounds who commit the same crimes, by time period



WAP0.ST/WONKBLOG

Source: United States Sentencing Commission

Goal: Help Public Defenders access data on racism

Our solution first focused on judges; however, through research we learned that in the USA

- Most sentencing comes from the plea stage of the process (involving attorneys, not judges)
- Majority of accused are represented by public defenders

***We decided to make a tool to help public defenders in order to help the people they are defending.

“... anywhere from 60 to 90 percent of criminal defendants need publicly-funded attorneys, depending on the jurisdiction.”

Public Defender definition:

A public defender is a lawyer appointed to represent people who otherwise cannot reasonably afford to hire a lawyer to defend themselves in a trial.

Join us in community to build solutions to end racism.

Ways To Act!

As a developer, you can take a stand and apply your skillset and ingenuity to make a difference.

- ☐ Join a motivated community of developers and partners to evolve the Call for Code for Racial Justice open-source projects

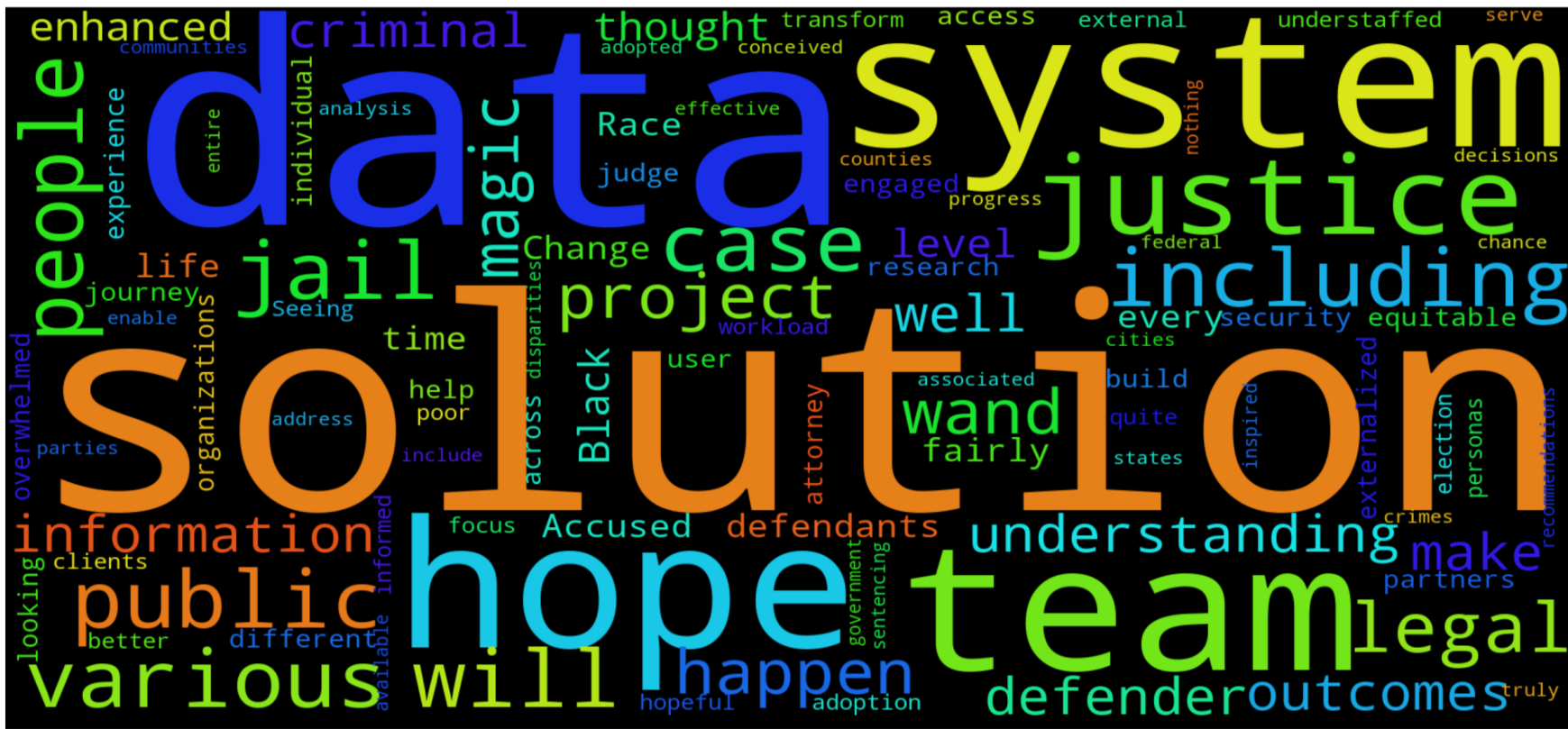
As an organization, you have the power and responsibility to make a difference – to your employees and to the world.

- ☐ Commit to adopt this technology to drive progress in combatting systemic racism.

As global citizens, we must act now and be part of a tangible change that we want to see today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

- ☐ Amplify these open-source building blocks with the world, providing a starting point for others to create and implement racial justice solutions.

Our hopes...



How to Start + Tutorial

We have a few active repos:

- Documentation and overall issues at <https://github.com/Call-for-Code-for-Racial-Justice/Open-Sentencing>
- Model code, documentation and related issues at <https://github.com/Call-for-Code-for-Racial-Justice/Open-Sentencing-Model>
- Aggregator code, documentation and related issues at <https://github.com/Call-for-Code-for-Racial-Justice/Open-Sentencing-Aggregator>
- UI code, documentation and related issues at <https://github.com/Call-for-Code-for-Racial-Justice/Open-Sentencing-UI>
- Reach out to us on Slack! In the Call for Code Slack workspace (callforcode.slack.com), find us at #racial-justice-open-sentencing

Tutorial

Open Sentencing: Identifying discrepancies in prison sentencing based on race

Expose bias and empower public defenders to directly address racial disparities in the judicial system

☆ Save 🍷 Like

Coders: go through the tutorial first.

- **Located at**
<https://developer.ibm.com/tutorials/open-sentencing/>
- **Set up the Open Sentencing Model**
- **Set up the Bias Detection Engine**
- **Set up the data Aggregator layer**
- **Set up the User Interface**



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