

CITY OF BEVERLY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

2022 FEB 24 A 8:38
CITY OF BEVERLY
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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD OR COMMISSION: Beverly Race Equity Task Force
SUBCOMMITTEE:
DATE: February 15, 2022
LOCATION: Remote Meeting on Google Meet
MEMBERS PRESENT: Abu Toppin, Todd Rotondo, RJ Broudo, January O'Neil,
Chief John LeLacheur, Leah Jones, Megan Sudak,
Robert Pierce, Nate Bryant, Mitchell Thomas, Scott
Houseman, Andrew DeFranza, Alison Adler, Andre
Morgan, Hannah Bowen, Isis Patterson, Jeffrey Mattson,
Matt Cubetus, Mia Nehme, Michae McCaffrey, Paul
Willenbrock, Mark Panjwani,
MEMBERS ABSENT: Marylou Hardy, Mayor Michael Cahill, Abby Battis,
Christine Healey, Joan Lovely, Beth Bower, Caja Johnson
RECORDER: Sarah Scott-Nelson

Abu Toppin called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

DEI Director update

Abu noted that the equity audit is in progress and is resulting in a lot of good suggestions for the Task Force. Abu also noted that there is a volunteer city staff looking at cultural representations in the municipal buildings as well as ongoing efforts to promote language access via Google Translate for the school system as well as the city website.

Review of Subcommittee potential focus areas and discussion

The Economics subcommittee has been working on financial literacy work, namely how to build wealth, improve credit scores. Dominic noted the subcommittee's emphasis on specific and measurable goals such as that at least 100 black americans improve their credit scores to above 700 so they can qualify for home loans.

The Education subcommittee has been working on issues of digital literacy and tech poverty, which have been exacerbated by COVID-19. It was noted that the Essex County Community Foundation has been working on a project to this effect. RJ Broudo noted the importance of resources for neurodiversity, stating that approaches which keep kids from being taken out of class to get resources is vital. A training program to create awareness amongst teachers was also suggested. Leah Jones asked about any developments working toward free tech access. Megan

Sudak noted that the school system has spent a long time working on universal learning and multiple access and entry points for students and that this is not a new endeavor.

The Public Safety subcommittee has been working on bias training, transparency, and community engagement efforts within the police department. Chief LeLacheur noted that a Public Relations company was hired to review the police department's online presence. Chief LeLacheur also noted that there is an ongoing project to distribute helmets to the middle schoolers as well as an outreach with the Brookline community to the LGBT+ community. Paul recounted a story about the Beverly Police Department's efforts to return a cane to an elderly Beverly resident expressed thanks to those involved.

The Public Health subcommittee has been working on the creation of a committee advisory board with a focus in racial equity and disparities, staffed with community navigators, as well as a regional approach to Public Health initiatives as many residents travel to nearby towns for resources. It was noted that efforts are being made to engage parents through their students' activities, engage interfaith groups, and leveraging partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

The Culture subcommittee has been working on connecting with organizations that host cultural events to establish a catalog or guide so there is a centralized means of communication for contacting those involved and learning best practices. Further efforts are being made to establish events throughout the year such as singing, poetry, and art displays, as well as engagement in schools and colleges for their participation in these events and increased invitations to diverse speakers. It was noted that the types of music and food that is served at these cultural events is of vital importance to their integrity and sensitivity.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.