

Date: January 7, 2021

Attending: Ali Abdul, Niki Amaris, Suheir Alaskari, Deb Ibonwa, Kate Knox, Jerome Bennett, Lado Ladoka, Merita McKenzie, Peter O'Donnell, Jonathan Sahrbeck, Louis Pickens, Pious Ali (Co Chair), Lelia DeAndrade (Co-Chair); Samaa Abdurraqib (Facilitator)

Absent:

Meeting Goals:

- Review Public Comment
- Discuss plans for using written comment

Review of what we've done to date

Approved minutes from Dec 17 and Dec. 22

Update:

Ali and Abdurraqib attended City Council meeting on Jan 4 to request an extension. The extension was approved, and the councilors requested an interim report in February.

Discussion: Public Comment

In person comments:

- Next week, 1/17 we'll take public comment on charge "#1 the role of police in public safety
- We will use the same format as previously used- business meeting will follow public comment if there's sufficient time; to allow for maximum time to receive comments
- Abdurraqib will take notes, DeAndrade will manage time and facilitate
- Committee members are listing potential participants for public comment in a spreadsheet

Written comments:

- We created a form that has a few questions for people to complete to submit comment
- It will be posted and shared as a link in a press release
- Ladoka will review written comments and will present them to the committee.

Discussion: Work to date

- Charge #1- examine role of police with public safety
 1. Committee agreed that the PPD's role is too broad
 2. TBD: alternative recommendations for managing public safety
 3. We received models from Dr. Medford to review
- Charge #2- examine city interaction with other organizations
 - Created a group definition of public safety
 - Developed a proposal to establish a commission to further investigate this charge and make recommendations
 - TBD: the context/justification and specifying who should be on the committee.
 - Developed a proposal to create a department of racial equity and a director or commissioner with at least 2 support staff
 - We need description of the role/function of the office, the role of the director; with responsibilities and qualifications;
 - We can recommend the number of FTE positions (full time equivalent) and the specific roles of the support staff
 - Developed a proposal to address racial disparities among homeless people and access to HHS programs. Included
 - All social service offices collect and publicly publish racial demographics

- Create a racial equity task force
- Implement the framework for equity-based services for homeless people
- Committee discussed the distinctions between the commission, the task force, the office, and the director. We need to clarify the roles, responsibilities, functions and relationship to the city of these bodies. There is still a lot of confusion about what these various bodies might be.
- Abdurraqib summarized:
 - The office of Racial equity would be in the Dept. of HHS
 - Commission composed of experienced community members
 - Evaluating policies and relationships with the committee
 - Includes the director of the office on the commission
 - Continues the work of this committee
 - Ombudsman to mediate disputes
- Note
 - Any paid staff would be employees of the city
 - We should investigate the Emergency Shelter Task Force and use that as a model.
 - We want a model that attends to financial restrictions and simple, easy effective ways for the city to implement
 - We want to develop deliverables to ensure that task force will address needed and specific changes for the city.

Other points of discussion:

- Reminder that we're halfway through our work and the community is waiting for recommendations from us
- Returning to charge #1 and offering a recommendation might be relatively quick and should reference the research conducted by Dr. Medford
- Recommendation that because Charge #3 is so broad and involves ongoing work, we might make this the responsibility of the commission

The committee agreed to return to discussion of Charge 1, which hopefully will help us with the remaining charges. We will also discuss proposals by Bennet and Ladoka.

Committee adjourned at 6:35.