

Tacoma Human Rights Commission

STUDY SESSION

January 20, 2022

Commissioners Present: Mason Culbertson, JR Nobles Courtney Acoff, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Laurie Lynch, Anita Snyder

Call to Order:

Possible 2022 Activities of the Commission:

- **Outreach & Education Committee** propose to:
 - a) Develop a one-page information sheet on what is HRC and what HRC does.
 - b) Write a letter to School Board, praising them for what they are doing in Equity in Tacoma Schools.
 - c) Outreach to one organization per month, explaining what HRC does and civil rights enforcement.
 - d) Work on issues concerning Equity and COVID-19;
 - e) Have more of a Social Media presence (Possibly establish a Social Media Committee)
- **Commissioners were asked whom do they want to hear from.**
 - a) Representative from Commission on Disabilities
 - b) Someone who can share information about mental health supports for those involved in juvenile justice system.
 - c) Representative from Faith community.
 - d) Youth sharing what they are going through.
 - e) Front-line workers in Queer and Trans communities.
 - f) Health-care workers assisting community.
 - g) More connected with C.I.R.A. and C.O.D.
 - h) City Manager, Elizabeth Pauli.
 - i) Restoration and healing of youth—due to rise of school violence.
 - j) Housing and Mental Illness
 - k) Affordable housing.
- **Policy & Advocacy Committee** propose to:
 - a) Develop health equity project related to COVID-19
 - b) Reach out to 3 community organizations to work on above referenced issue.
- **Black Lives Matter Mural** – Lead Artist presently engaging community.

Adjournment

Tacoma Human Rights Commission

BUSINESS MEETING

January 20, 2022

Commissioners Present: Mason Culbertson, JR Nobles Courtney Acoff, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Laurie Lynch, Michealea Lemons, Anita Snyder

Call to Order:

Roll Call

Approval of Business Meeting Agenda: A motion to approve the Meeting Agenda was made and passed.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the December Meeting Notes was made and passed.

Staff Reports: Andreta Armstrong reports about Vision Zero. Information about Vision Zero is as follows: The City of Tacoma has committed to an effort called Vision Zero to eliminate serious traffic injuries and deaths by 2035, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

The City will be developing a Vision Zero Action Plan outlining the programs, policies and infrastructure projects needed to achieve this goal. This plan will center equity and examine critical policy issues affecting every Tacoma resident – issues like speed limits, how infrastructure funding is prioritized, and the role of enforcement in our transportation system.

The Vision Zero Task Force will meet three times over the course of five months to guide the Action Plan. The first meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, February 24 from 9:30-11:00am via Zoom.

Commissioner Keshreeyaji Oswal volunteered to be HRC representative. However, Commissioners expressed the time set for the Vision Zero Task Force does not allow for many working from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to easily participate.

New Business

Camping Ordinance Update

Chair Andre' Jimenez reported the Commission wrote a letter to Mayor Woodards outlining pathways to shelter and stability. The Mayor proposed the Commission to meet with the Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee of the City Council—Deputy Mayor Ushka to develop solutions. House Bill 1866 may be a better method to actually building pathways to housing. NCS (Neighborhood and Community Services) had a community listening session in December of 2021, on this issue. Pierce County Homeless Taskforce meets every Friday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am to discuss such issues—website is www.pchomeless.org

Black Lives Matter Mural Timeline: March, April—Review survey information shared by community members that was distributed by Lead Artist, Dionne Bonner. May, June—Painting mural and celebration.

Racial Justice and Equity: Will meet every 4th Thursday of the month. This committee is presently wrapping-up looking at Race and Social Justice effort of other similar groups throughout US.

Outreach & Education: This committee will take the lead on writing 1-page information sheet on HRC purpose. The group will also take lead on writing letter to Tacoma Public Schools, praising them for their good work.

Adjournment