



MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY
Friday, August 26, 2016 @ 11:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

Committee Members

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jody Washington- absent

Others Present

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Al Salas
Mark Dotson, Deputy City Attorney- arrived at 12:00 p.m. left at 12:02 p.m. returned at 12:13 p.m.
Jim Bale
Sandy Wolfe, Peckham
Griffin River
Stacey Locke, Peckham
Tammy Lemmer
Judi Harris
Elaine Womboldt

Council Member Wood passed the gavel to Council Member Spitzley.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 12, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Council Member Spitzley passed the gavel to Council Member Wood.

Presentation

Hispanic Community

Mr. Salas briefly spoke on his role in the South Lansing area as an advisor to ethnic groups. The points they are seeking are to be treated like every other ethnic group, offered the same jobs, same opportunities, same schools and same chances. Ms. Salas is also asking for more roles for Hispanics in upper positions in the City Administration. Mr. Salas continued with his overview of the Hispanic community which he believes starts in the schools. There are high

dropout rates in the Hispanic populations and they need to see teachers and guidance in the schools, beginning with the parents and mentors.

Ms. Wolfe brought up an example of acceptance into a university whether identifying oneself on the application as Latino or not. The group discussed their opinions on the criteria, in addition to hiring criteria. Council Member Spitzley noted to the group that the law for a university has been challenged, and in Michigan there used to be affirmative action, but they don't have those any more. As the community is becoming more diverse, unfortunately employment has not kept up with that. It is not a quota but a recognition that the world is changing.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Salas if his experience with working with the Latino population if they are afraid to ask for services or things they need because of the stigma they will be perceived as undocumented. Mr. Salas confirmed that statement, and explained that at Cristo Rey Community Center their food pantry was only available to a US citizen, along with needed medical care. The community also fears their family will be separated if a mother is undocumented however the children are US citizens. Council Member Spitzley asked what three things the Committee can take away from this meeting to help the Latino community. Mr. Salas stated they want to be treated fairly, want a chance like everyone else, and opportunities in upper positions.

Ms. Womboldt asked Mr. Salas to inform the group why people are not getting documented. Mr. Salas admitted it is a long process and Crist Rey does have a program to help. Ms. Harris noted though that there has to be a strong reason to be here in the US, because for undocumented cases they get deported and have to start the process in their home country. Ms. Womboldt stated she would be contacting her congressman to create an umbrella of time while they are attempting to become citizens instead of deporting.

Mr. Rivers acknowledged Mr. Salas for all his work in the community, not just the South Side Boys and Girls club.

Ordinance Chapter 297 Amendments

The Committee reviewed Draft 7 from the City Attorney office. Mr. Dotson clarified that the recent changes reflect the involvement of the Office of the City Attorney at the point of the complaint having no resolution, and if a lack of resolution it will be referred out to another prosecutor's office. The Committee noted a correction to page 19, line 8 to change "Rights" "Resources". The complete document should be amended to reflect that in all capital letters it should state "Office of the City Attorney" where there role has been added. Mr. Dotson confirmed it will be rewritten so any changes will be placed in capital letters.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 297 HUMAN RIGHTS AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING UNDER DRAFT #8. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Council Member Wood stated that at the next meeting the Committee will once again review the brochure/flyer for corrections. Ms. Locke asked if the draft can be sent to her advocacy group, and it was confirmed.

Updates from groups

Ms. Womboldt reminded the group of the Committee on Public Safety meeting at 2 p.m. regarding medical marihuana.

Mr. Salas invited everyone to the annual Southside Boys and Girls program at Francis Park on September 6th.

Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:48 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Approved by Committee on September 9, 2016