



AGENDA
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Monday, August 3, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.

Via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88097021187>; ID: 880 9702 1187; Dial In: (301) 715-8592
Email comments prior to the meeting to sherrie.boak@lansingmi.gov

Councilmember Spitzley, Chair
Councilmember Dunbar, Vice Chair
Councilmember Spadafore, Member

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Discussion/Action:**
 - A.) Establish Organization and Goals for Committee**
- 3. Public Comments/Listening Session (limited to 3 minutes)**
- 4. Adjourn**

With Executive Order 2020-4, Governor Whitmer declared a statewide State of Emergency due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders and this State's health care system and other critical infrastructure, it is crucial that all Michiganders take steps to limit in-person contact, particularly in the context of large groups. Therefore, the above meetings will be conducted via audio/video conference.

The meetings are being held electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website or phone number above, and meeting ID provided. Michigan Executive Order 2020-129 provides temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TTY 711) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

RESOLUTION #2020-

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 41 of the Lansing City Council Rules, a proposed rule revision shall be placed on the Council Agenda for Council receipt and review, but “shall not be considered for adoption sooner than the next council meeting”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby amends the City Council Rule 16 Standing Committees by inserting the Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as set forth below.

Rule 16 Standing Committees; the standing committees of Council and their functions are as follows:

COMMITTEE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will establish relevant policies that improve health in the Black, brown, indigenous, and other communities of color, support local, state, and federal initiatives that advance social justice and racial equity, and continue the work which began in 2013 through the City Council’s Ad-Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

The Committee will assess current and proposed laws (ordinances and health regulations) and policies, as well as their implementation, to promote health for Black, brown, indigenous, and other residents of color of the City of Lansing, will assess internal policies and procedures to ensure racial equity is a core element in all organizational practices, will report back through the Committee of Whole on the status of its work on not less than a quarterly basis.

Further, the Committee will develop budget recommendations and priorities and submit them to the City Council for consideration as part of the annual budgeting process to ensure City resources are expended toward public services that achieve the goals and charge of the Committee.

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS the people of Lansing joined the world in witnessing the horror of the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department; and

WHEREAS police departments across the country have their own history of racist violence and discrimination; and

WHEREAS people of all races, led by Black youth, have risen up in recent weeks here in Lansing and around the country to demand an end to police violence against Black people, and a fundamental shift in how we think about policing and community safety; and

WHEREAS increased policing does not solve the challenges of violence or crime in our communities, but only introduces a more violent force into the equation; and

WHEREAS investments in education, healthcare, mental health programs, and community-led social programs are proven to increase community safety in a more cost-effective manner than policing; and

WHEREAS Black communities in Lansing suffer unequal educational opportunities and access to healthcare due to generational disinvestment by the city, state and federal government; and

WHEREAS the Police Department receives one third of the total city revenue, making it the city's largest annual expenditure; and

WHEREAS the Police budget has grown 11% over the past 3 years, at nearly double the rate of the Public Services budget and while the Human Services budget has decreased, reflective of a deadly skewing of our priorities; and

WHEREAS all Lansing residents, Black, white, and brown, deserve a greater say in the allocation of public resources; and

WHEREAS Ingham County and the City of Lansing have declared racism a public health crisis; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lansing City Council commits to taking the following steps to invest in public services that benefit all residents and reduce racial inequities while reducing the police budget:

1. INVEST IN THE PEOPLE OF LANSING

- a. Create an ad-hoc committee on Public Safety Transformation (“the committee”) which will focus on two goals. First, the committee will administer a community budgeting process (“the process”) to determine the exact allocation of funds made available through a police budget reduction of 50% over a five-year period. Second, the committee will issue recommendations on how to administer public safety with the reduced funding levels. A “New Priorities Report” will be released to the public with recommendations on investment targets and public safety administration.

2. THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY TRANSFORMATION

- a. A commitment to systemic transformation, compassion, liberation for marginalized people and racial equity should be at the center of the team’s work.
- b. The committee will be tasked with the responsibility of finding ways to reduce the police budget and reinvest those funds into other city programs through a process that centers community input and those adversely affected by over-policing.

3. THE COMMUNITY BUDGETING PROCESS

- a. The process must be open and transparent; guided by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Public Safety Transformation; conducted in a community-driven manner without undue influence from the Mayor’s office; and ensure broad and deep participation from Black communities and all others negatively impacted by police violence and lack of public investment in our city.
- b. The community budgeting process will operate under the framework of a 50% reduction in the police budget over a 5-year period. The process will be focused on finding ways of reinvesting funds made available through police budget reductions into other city programs.
- c. The process must commit to uprooting the false belief in racial hierarchy and investing in community health services, youth programs, transformative justice, and other programs to repair the decades of harm caused by racism in our community and reduce dependence on police.
- d. The process shall compile its results into a “New Priorities Report” and be shared with the City Council and the public by February 1, 2021.

4. REFORM AND REDUCE THE LANSING POLICE BUDGET

- a. In the remaining police budget, the task force must examine the following policies that include but are not limited to: de-escalation protocols, racial bias training and a zero-tolerance policy for racist acts by Lansing Police officers without any additional funding.
- b. This process should examine best practices on public safety with unarmed response teams and other forms of crisis assistance that focus on transformative justice.
- c. The process shall compile its results into the “Public Safety Transformation Report” listed in Section 3(d) and shared with the public by February 1, 2021.