

**Race and Equity Committee Meeting
March 9 2020**

Attendees:

- Dre
- Joanne
- Langston
- Journalism
- Jimmy McClellan – Ward 3
- Taylor – UM Ward 3
- Chuck Perry –
- Ashely Brown-Grier – Ward 1
- Marshall – Ward 2
- Dan
- Absent – Stacie

Minutes:

Motion to table minutes until next time

Funding for fire \$50k per year from Marshall

Fix amal awad's name from Marshall

Fix two bullets with data and align with the next

Motion passed

Agenda:

Public comment is at the end of the meeting

Send link to all members for Google Drive for RETF

ENTERPRISE INTERVIEW

Enterprise interview – Stacie and Latoya

Focused on affordable housing

Seemed focused on offering a toolkit to residents to **find** affordable housing

Didn't seem as focused on building the supply of affordable housing

Enterprise are residents of the City of Hyattsville

They plan to reach out to have further conversations

Jan – the City has contracted Enterprise to present a plan to City Council

Council Member Peabody – inform City's efforts to provide affordable housing

Broad strategy

How to promote affordable housing

What is affordable housing in City of Hyattsville

Phase one – conduct interviews to find out who residents are, broad cross section, factors people are thinking about, what affordability means to various residents

Phase two – looking at examples from across the country and pulling in strategies from other communities across the country to approve affordability and to help people who influence affordability in the City

Timeline – by this summer, prelim findings – what aff housing should look like and how to promote

Jan – first phase is complete, not sure what is happening between

Dan – they provide recommendations about nature of affordability (working definition) and best strategies to encourage it

Latoya – do we have a working definition?

Dan – conversation around Average Median Income and what percentage is considered affordable

Latoya – will Council decide on definition or will Race and Equity Committee decide?

Dan – found this contractor but also looking to Committees like RE to inform the discussion
Comprehensive study

Many people participated in interviews

Marshall – please define acronyms

Dre – we will keep our eye on this and incorporate it into our plan
Holistic approach to this topic

Latoya – for recommendations from Enterprise, should we embed into our Equity Plan

Dan – you can but this committee can include whatever info it wants and the Plan will inform the Council discussion and decision

City is not a zoning authority but is a tax collecting authority

Our leverage over those interested in building in the City of Hyattsville is tax breaks

Last year, City took its stand with affordable housing planned for this area, and realized we were looking for guidance and clarity – how will we define aff housing and how will we best use tools at our disposal?
Experience on Council did not fully address the needs

FEEDBACK FROM MAYOR HOLLINGSWORTH

Equity Plan – you didn't receive feedback on Equity Plan but you will see it at the next meeting. City Administrator gave her direct reports deadlines for comment. Fine-tuned the information. At our next meeting the comments will come to the Committee, except for the Policing section. Chief provided comments directly into that.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Dre reported back about meeting with Chief.

Equity Plan was not a fair assessment of where the department is. Robust training program. Immersive techniques to enhance performance of officers and their interaction with the public.

Assets: Night Out and high fives from officers on first day of school. These were downplayed in the report.

Need: Police Explorer Program high school students and Cadet Program paid internship program. Other pressing issues, but Chief is trying to establish the Explorer Program.

Data analysis was projected onto the HCPD rather than using data from the HCPD about HCPD.

Social media is happening now.

Was the committee operating in a vacuum or finding out what was going on?

Will revise the abstract.

PPT was reviewed and discussed

But we also discussed many questions that were given to them in advance

Comments from the Directors should reflect what actions are already happening, what actions are going to happen and when, what not feasible and why.

This is a “re-entry” into a draft that was created a long time ago

Good to have context

EQUITY PLAN ABSTRACT: HOUSING

Latoya Lead and Stacie Reviewer

We are giving historical context and getting to the root of the issue.

Housing is a basic need but not everyone has proximity or access to reasonable housing.

Statistics include the national experience, the disadvantages that people of color have experienced, the living wage vs. the cost of housing, lack of access to resources, public assistance.

Need to unearth the truth of why we are having the conversation about affordable housing.

Relationship of health to housing: taxing to have to be creative and innovative to secure housing.

What does affordability of housing really mean?

Want to talk about that in the meeting and discuss how to make it equitable for all people.

Repeal housing covenants, which has affected access to housing and these covenants are still on the books.

Not sure how the City can request funds to support residents’ housing needs, but want to explore this.

Data needed.

Need to think about who needs a seat at the table about affordable housing – we are making decisions for people when they are not here.

Ashley:

What is the definition? How do we make sure that vouchers are available to all and that we are not practicing discrimination?

Source of income could be restricted – depends on county

PG County has a harsh definition for acceptable sources of income

Dre:

More studies needed about not just PG County but also about Hyattsville

Latoya:

Found work that Stuart Eisenberg is doing to map racism

Not a lot of data about Hyattsville and housing, historically and currently

Jan could get us in communication with the Director responsible for housing (Jim Chandler)

Jan:

I will spend time with Jim Chandler for more context and more info on the timeline for the Enterprise project

Ashley:

Apartments vs. homeownership amongst minorities

Bozzutto (former property manager of Palette Apartments) had Smart Rent program – is that something that the City could consider to require of developers who want to build in the City of Hyattsville?

Dre:

Incorporate proposals into this section

Latoya:

Housing could be the umbrella under which everything else falls

If there is no housing, there is not community

Housing makes a community thrive

Joanne:

All five areas are interrelated – can we find a way to depict the web

Dre:

This could tie it all together

If you don't have access to transportation, then you can't get to work and you can't pay for your housing or your health care, etc.

Latoya:

Rise of homelessness in City of Hyattsville

People are working two jobs and unable to afford housing

PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Chuck – in meeting with Chief Awad did she related any qualitative or quantitative information? Did she provide any current data from the department? Interaction with the community? Police stops?

My MPIA (Maryland Public Information Act, aka State FOIA) request that is about to expire – waiting for a response

How does the police department actually react and interact with the public

Dre – areas that require police response near Mall at Prince Georges and Metro Station

Jan – Chief provided information to the Co-Chairs for the express purpose

Raw data was not provided

This Committee could not provide this type of raw data

Liaison for MPIA? Call

Marshall – You mentioned the Mayor’s mission: what is that?

What was the intention of meeting with the Chief

Jan – Equity Plan has been stalled and has not received feedback from the Directors/Chief

We decided to sit down with the Chief because the Co-Chairs decided we need to know more about structure, resources, program in progress, actionable ideas, etc.

Marshall – who you contact for information: if talking with HCPD, then talk with Chief or send to Chief to address; if not addressed, then send to City Administrator;

Chuck – Maryland law says there is a duty to respond

Marshall – when City decided to delve into affordable housing (tax break to renovate), they promised to keep rents the same rather than raise rent; most of this handled in closed meetings due to legal issues; developer didn’t disclose and City didn’t know to ask – but the developer didn’t raise the rent but did separate the utilities from the rent

Marshall – during meeting with the Chief, was there any discussion of or opinion formed about Civilian Complaint Review Board?

Dre – more research needs to be done. The one we were referencing doesn’t exist (check this). work with an organization that has expertise in setting up these boards.

Did you get a feeling for whether she seemed receptive?

Yes.

Do you have a list of the questions you asked?

No. I presented the abstract and addressed the topics in there.

Was the meeting open to the public?

No.

Who was at the meeting?

Jan, Dre, Stacie and Chief Awad, City Administrator came in to say hello

Any questions asked about internal departmental bias?

Not particularly. Did discuss diversity and steps being made to increase diversity pool (recruitment).

Did she provide any background about department?

How dept is run, accrediting board (CALEA), expanding the office once they move into a new space, other changes she wants to implement.

Joanne – Can you give us any guiding questions for the Community Policing section, especially so we can Ensure that the plan addresses real concerns

Marshall – Good path so far. Civilian Complaint Review Board is key. In this state, particularly municipal but also county, your last point of complaint is with the Chief. If you have a small department, and you have a complaint, and the Chief denies it, your complaint stops there and you can go to court, possible State’s Attorney.

NEXT MEETING

- 2nd Monday of the month – April 13

AGENDA ITEMS

- Community Policing abstract will be ready by that meeting for review
- Interactive session on Affordable Housing – discuss
- Co-Chairs talking about how to realign and get the Plan finalized
- Comments from the Directors
- Race and Equity Mission – Candace Hollingsworth

OTHER BUSINESS

Latoya:

- How we will incorporate Ashley’s role in the sections of the Equity Plan so she can be the lead or the review on a section?
- Ashley: Interested in Jobs section

Joanne

- Question: what is the status of the joint meeting with the Police Advisory Committee?
- Currently there is not a quorum of that Committee nor are there Co-Chairs?

ADJOURN 9:29PM