



MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY
Friday, February 24, 2017 @ 11:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 a.m.

Committee Members

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

Others Present

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Bale, AFLCIO
Brendan Waddell, Assistant City Attorney
Guillermo Lopez
Elaine Womboldt, Rejuvenating South Lansing
Rina Risper, The New Citizens Press
Casey Cooper, TCOA
Judi Harris, St. Vincent's Refugee Services
Sandy Wolfe, Peckham

MINUTE

Minutes from the February 3, 2017 were moved to the next meeting for action.

Presentation

Ms. Risper presented information about her background and the creation of The New Citizens Press. Ms. Risper then distributed the newspaper editions, referenced the edition is on the web, and reminded them it is also distributed in 130 locations.

Councilmember Wood asked how the City can work with the publication to integrate City information on diversity, and Ms. Risper encouraged everyone present to forward her any information they want in the paper. Lastly Ms. Risper distributed a poem, *The Bully* that she wrote, and read it for the group.

Discussion

Update – Inquiry into HR Department on Employee Diverse Hiring Statistics

Mr. Waddell distributed a workforce snapshot his office received from the City Human Resource Department which outlined the numbers as of 12/31/2016. Mr. Waddell confirmed it was for full time employees. Councilmember Washington asked for a comparison to be done with the most recent census information. Councilmember Wood stated she would research that information. The group also asked that law department inquire for the spreadsheet to include part time, contract and seasonal numbers.

2017 Cesar Chavez Memorial Event

Mr. Lopez distributed the draft flyer and program for the 2017, and asked that the flyer reformat the location address and sent to him in a pdf form. Councilmember Wood stated she would also start working on the resolution and reach out to the Mayor's office for the Mayor's Proclamation.

Discussion – City TV Program Series

Councilmember Wood gave a brief overview of the presentation by Mr. Cochran at the last meeting. Council Staff was asked to forward Mr. Cochran and Mr. Gabriel contact information from CityTV to Ms. Harris and the contact for TCOA. The group then brain stormed theme names, including "Understanding We Are All Unique", "We are Lansing" "We Are the Capital City". The group will continue the discussion at the next meetings

Other

Updates on Participants in the Committee

Ms. Womboldt distributed a flyer on an upcoming health fair being held at the Bethel Seventh-Day Adventist Community Church on March 5, 2017. A flyer on the next Rejuvenating South Lansing was also distributed.

Ms. Harris provided an update on the work of St. Vincent's Refugee Center. Some of their pending refugees' cases were cancelled because of the Executive Order. After the court order some have been rebooked. St. Vincent's is being told there will not be any more arrivals of refugees after March 8th. The Refugee Center is looking at a 65% reduction, which is requiring them to lay off employees.

Councilmember Washington noted that there is confusion on refugees, immigrants and undocumented immigrants. Declaring a Sanctuary City does not help the refugees, and Ms. Harris confirmed they do not have anything to do with Sanctuary City's. Councilmember Washington stated she had hear other countries are closing their refugee camps and borders, then voiced a concern on what is going to happen globally.

Ms. Harris noted that if you looked 110,000 at the refugees nationally that President Obama was allowing into the country that had been vetted and the Administration is now down to 50,000. These refugees did everything they needed to do with testing, vetting, etc.

Councilmember Washington then asked if she knew how long the Executive Order would be in place. Ms. Harris stated that it addresses 90 days for the original countries listed in that Order, then added 120 days to look at processing process. Currently they do not know if the process of reviewing the process has begun. Councilmember Washington offered her assistance in helping to keep the St. Vincent Refugee Center open. Ms. Harris continued an overview of recent programs her group is doing.

Adjourn

Adjourn at 1:04 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager Approved March 10, 2017