



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, May 5, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88223124424> ; ID: 882 2312 4424; Dial In: (301) 715-8592

Held virtually in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public & to mitigate the spread of COVID 19

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Spitzley called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT via audio/video

Council Member Spitzley, Chair remotely from Pensacola, Florida
Council Member Jackson, Vice-Chair remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Council Member Dunbar, Member remotely from Lansing, Michigan

OTHERS PRESENT via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen, OCA

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 14, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION

ORDINANCE Repeal Chapter 622, Section 622.01, a criminal misdemeanor under the general offenses code of the codified ordinances to eliminate drug paraphernalia.

Mr. Smiertka spoke on a memo dated 5/5/2021 on this ordinance and the other agenda items.

Ms. Hagen referenced the memo which had the ordinance language, and alternative statutes as it pertains. She noted there is nothing that speaks to the paraphernalia, but does speak to drugs. MCL 333.7453 does speak to the sale of drug paraphernalia, and that is addressed by Ingham County Courts.

Council Member Spitzley asked OCA if they are still concerned with the repeal of this, and Ms. Hagen stated that they have seen in District Court weekly, and after discussions with the LPD they have seen this used.

Council Member Jackson, after all discussions, will still ask to move all these out. During public hearings, it was noted the majority supported repeal. He recited potential dangerous possession of the drugs,

Council Member Spitzley concurred for moving it out for final vote at Council.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 622, SECTION 622.01. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE; Repeal Chapter 630, Section 630.12, a criminal misdemeanor under the general offenses code of the codified ordinances to eliminate loitering in places where controlled substances or drug paraphernalia is sold, used, etc

Ms. Hagen stated she has not seen loitering in a drug paraphernalia situation.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 630, SECTION 630.12.

Mr. Smiertka referenced the memo, where it states frequenting places where controlled substances, and Ms. Hagen that is still on the books. Mr. Smiertka stated the OCA had no issues with the repeal.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE; Repeal Chapter 650, Section 650.05, a criminal misdemeanor under the general offenses code of the codified ordinances to eliminate parental responsibility.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 650, SECTION 650.05.

No discussion or comments from the Committee or the OCA.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE; Repeal Chapter 664, Section 664.02, a criminal misdemeanor under the general offenses code of the codified ordinances to eliminate that no person shall disturb, without lawful authority, any public assembly or meeting of persons.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 664, SECTION 664.02.

Mr. Smiertka referenced the memo. Ms. Hagen stated that 664.01 (a) could be used, or 664.01 (c) if loud and boisterous was repealed. Mr. Smiertka stated that as long as there is something to use to enforce.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION -Support for House Bill 4275 - Amend Michigan Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act G. Council Member Spitzley briefly outlined the Bill, and noted it is to support State Representative Sarah Anthony's Crown Act. She added it is important to support these parts of legislation that support people in being who they are.

Council Member Spitzley passed the gavel to Council Member Jackson.

Council Member Spitzley then highlighted the resolution reciting the State Representative Sarah Anthony of Lansing introduce House Bill 4275 in February 2021 to amend Michigan's Elliott Larsen Civil Rights to include the definition of "race" as "inclusive of traits historically associated with race, including...hair texture and protective hairstyles...."

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 4275.

Council Member Dunbar spoke in support of the resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Jackson passed the gavel back to Council Member Spitzley.

DISCUSSION – FY2021/2022 Budget Policies

Council Member Spitzley asked if the Committee if they had any suggestions to move out of this Committee.

Council Member Jackson spoke on a suggestion on the LPD budget, and plans to bring an amendment to use one of the vacant positions that is already funded, to switch it to the second social worker. It is not cost neutral, but a \$22,000 difference, and take that from the miscellaneous account. He offered to forward a memo from the Internal Auditor. He concluded it would address the LPD budget not increasing unnecessarily. Council Member Spitzley supported that option. Council Member Jackson then proposed the money would go to the fund for the \$135,000 organization. Ms. Boak reminded the Committee that budget adoption has to be May 17th, so any documentation that can be sent to all of Council ahead of time would be best. Council Member Jackson stated he would forward to staff to send to all of Council. Council Member Spitzley spoke on the amount of cold case files, and lack of staff to address. She proposed a cold case unit, bringing in a police officer, or retired investigator, someone from IT moved into the department. She admitted it is not defunding the police, but is filling a niche where something is needed, that effects the black and brown community as a majority. Council Member Jackson asked about if this is in addition to the help from Detroit that the City just accepted in the last couple months. Council Member Spitzley stated it is in addition to that because that assistance is temporary, and not on a regular basis, and the City needs people on the ground daily to address this and impact this large number of cold cases. Council Member Dunbar spoke about an option of taking someone off the road, and Council Member Spitzley concurred with having a dedicated staff. Council Member Jackson asked what the current staff is, and Council Member Spitzley stated there is one detective but does not work on it full time. The critic need would be for someone such as a part time retired prosecutor. It would not limit someone from being called out on the road, but the majority of their time would be the cold case. The amount suggested would include clerical, IT, an officer off the street and trained as a detective. Council Member Spitzley stated she will write the proposal out and send out for discussion on May 10th.

Public Comment/Listening Session- Limited to 3 minutes; sign up to speak will end 15 minutes after the first speaker starts

No public comment at this time.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee May 19, 2021