

AGENDA

Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion AGENDA FOR AUGUST 11, 2021 AT 4:30 PM



Lansing City Hall, City Council Conference Room
124 W. Michigan Avenue, 10th Floor

To provide input or ask questions on any item that is listed on the agenda, members of the public may contact the City Council at city.council@lansingmi.gov or (517) 483-4177 prior to the meeting.

**Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC),
City Council President Spadafore is requesting members of the public, City staff and Council Members
wear face coverings at meetings of the City Council and Committees.**

Council Member Spitzley, Chairperson
Council Member Jackson, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Dunbar, Member

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Minutes**
 - A. June 16, 2021
 - B. July 28, 2021
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items (Up to 3 Minutes)**
5. **Presentations:**
6. **Discussion/Action:**
 - C. RESOLUTION - Budget Priorities for FY2022/2023; RE: Advance Peace Initiative Funding
 - D. RESOLUTION - Amaia Alysse Edmonds Gift of Life Day in the City of Lansing
7. **Other**
8. **Adjourn**

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.



Minutes

Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Wednesday, June 16, 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 Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT via audio/video

Council Member Spitzley, Chair remotely from Lansing, Michigan- excused

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

Amanda O'Boyle, OCA

Jim Smiertka, OCA

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER DUNBAR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION

Ordinance Amendment; Chapter 658, Section 658.03

Due to computer issues for the Committee members Ms. Boak shared her screen for the agenda and proposed ordinance.

Ms. O'Boyle spoke brief on the changes to language, removing "willfully annoy another person" replacing it with "threaten another person by word of mouth, gesture, or other physical action that insults, accosts, molests or otherwise harasses the other person". The Committee discussed the examples and situations where this could occur. Council Member Jackson asked about details on the reasoning for "harass" and Ms. O'Boyle stated it is a standard practice where you list items, or have a general word that would encompass. Council Member Dunbar asked for the OCA definition "insult, accost, molest and harass". Ms. O'Boyle stated it would be fact specific and didn't want to speculate, so she provided a scenario. She noted the goal was for some sort of guidance, because perhaps "willfully annoy" was to some sort of vague phrase. Council Member Dunbar stated the idea behind it was not to just put the public on notice, but to say to the police that there needs to be more than willfully annoy to arrest. Council Member Jackson acknowledged his support that this is directed more towards threatening behavior, but

questioned some of the words used such as “accost”, and “harass”, and asked the Committee and OCA to peel off the language that is already covered in some other ordinance or law. He asked to then look at it, to see what it would cover, which could result in the word just “harass”. Council Member Dunbar asked for clarification on if his request would be to look at other ordinances and if there is something else in the tool box that would cover this. Ms. O’Boyle then spoke on any issues they have seen in courts with the current language and also provided examples. There could be other specific ordinances that are used such as “telephone harassment”, “trespassing on the property of another”, and State Statute such as stalking, legal will pursue those more specific crimes. This is an odd situation, where it doesn’t quite rise to the level of “stalking” or “trespassing” which would very specific requirements. Council Member Jackson stated he is interested in taking to Council the ordinance as it is drafted to be reasonable and provide all the tools. Council Member Jackson asked to hold it for the next meeting since this was not his original proposed ordinance amendment, but something the full Committee was working on and then the whole Committee would be present to vote it out of Committee.
Council

OTHER

Council Member Dunbar asked for a future discussion on pursuing everyone’s thought process on gun violence and for an update from the OCA on the recently established Gun Violence Task Force. Mr. Smiertka confirmed the group had not met yet, and even though the members listed were all of the Mayor’s staff, the intent is to have other members of the Community involved. Council Member Jackson acknowledged the request for the discussion and asked that it be placed on the next Committee agenda so all Committee members can be involved in the discussions.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, July 28, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.
Lansing City Hall, City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Spitzley called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT via audio/video

Council Member Spitzley, Chair
Council Member Jackson, Vice-Chair
Council Member Dunbar, Member - unexcused

OTHERS PRESENT via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Jim Smiertka, OCA
John Edmonds, Called In

MINUTES

Action moved to next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present at this time, and no public comment.

DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION – Introduction & Setting of Public Hearing; Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 658; Section 658.03

Council Member Jackson recapped a discussion that was held at the last meeting. Ms. Hagen added that this was the “willful annoyance ordinance” and was requested to be amended. Council Member Jackson asked OCA, if “insult” by word of mouth, is technically a crime under this proposed amended ordinance. He was encouraged to move something out of Committee at this time, however if as written, if someone by word of mouth does an action that insults, it could be a crime. Mr. Smiertka noted it gets down to be fact driven in front of the judge. He provided an example of what this ordinance would apply to. Ms. Hagen stated this is helpful with roaming parties, aggressive pan handling, without having a course of conduct. Council Member Spitzley also provided examples between two people and the use of this to defuse something before it become a physical assault. Mr. Smiertka noted to the Committee that this proposed amendment is more specific than what is currently on the books. Council Member Jackson proposed to remove the word “insults” from line 6 and line 14.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET A HEARING FOR INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 658 SECTION 658.03. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Council Member Spitzley amended the agenda allowing John Edmonds time to call in.

DISCUSSION – In Support of Additional Funding for Advance Peace Initiative

Council Member Spitzley noted to the Committee for the record that this is a discussion on funding Advance Peace, because cannot amend the budget to directly spend the funds towards Advance Peace. Her proposal is a resolution for the Budget Priorities due in October to request the Administration to completely fund the Advance Peace Initiative with COVID dollars. Mr. Smiertka asked if this was the same resolution Council Member Dunbar was attempting to add as a “Late Item” on July 12th. Council Member Spitzley clarified it was not. The Resolution in the packet was the adopted Resolution 2021-058 from March 22, 2021, and was strictly reference material for the creation of her proposed resolution on Budget Priorities for FY2022/2023.

Mr. Edmonds called in at this time, and this discussion was put on hold until after the discussion with Mr. Edmonds and an Annual Amaia Alysee Edmonds Gift of Life Day.

DISCUSSION – Annual Amaia Alysee Edmonds Day

Council Member Spitzley welcomed Mr. Edmonds via phone from Texas, and make him aware the Committee had the 2012 Resolution (2012-213) in front of them and asked him what his interest was in a new resolution at this time.

Mr. Edmonds first started by speaking to the actions in 2012 which was an honor for a day in 2012 for his daughter who passed away at age 7, and was able to save 7 people with her gift of like organ donations. Since that time he has found while working in the community alongside The Gift of Life organization there is a tremendous popularity for the gift of life in Michigan. He added that since his death he has been active in counseling crime victims, and confirmed with a statement by Council Member Spitzley that the African American community is reluctant to donate organs, so he is trying to bring an awareness to the Gift of Life and educate.

Council Spitzley proposed an event late August with Mr. Edmonds and The Gift of Life to formally recognize all that the Gift of Life does, encouraging education on the organization and formally setting the Amaia Alysee Edmonds Gift of Life Day in Lansing. Mr. Edmonds asked for the official “day” be Amaia birthday which is May 31st. The Committee concurred and determined a tribute and special ceremony would be held on August 23, 2021 at City Council, then the following Friday, August 27th there would be an event in City Hall lobby. Council Member Spitzley confirmed she has already begun conversations with Mayor Schor and he too wants to be involved. Mr. Smiertka suggested inviting representatives from the Pastors Clergy Forum to attend and speak as well.

The Committee agreed to continue the discussion on the formal tribute resolution at the next meeting, August 11th for presentation and adoption at the August 23rd Council meeting.

Mr. Edmonds hung up from his conversation.

DISCUSSION – In Support of Additional Funding for Advance Peace Initiative

Council Member Spitzley referred the Committee and OCA to the second page of Resolution 2021-058 in the packet. She focused specifically on the last “WHEREA” and the first “THEREFORE”. She noted the language in those is similar to what she would like the new resolution on budget priorities to include, however recommend the City full fund their portion of the Advance Peace Initiative for the next fiscal year. The number would be a recommendation for funding. The Committee consensus was not to be specific on the exact amount of where to get the funds from. The Committee will review the draft resolution at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION – Gun Safety

The Committee noted this discussion was proposed by Council Member Dunbar at the last two meetings, but no information or materials were provided at this time. Council Member Spitzley asked the topic be removed from the agendas in the future since there are no materials to review and Council Member Dunbar was not present at this meeting.

OTHER

Council Member

Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee

BY THE COMMITTEE ON EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Committee met to evaluate the budget and recommend an annual statement of budget priorities to guide the Administration in developing and presenting the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lansing City Council has established the following as one of the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget Policies and Priorities and requests that the Administration review encourages that they, to the extent practical, be included in the Administration's budget presented due to the City Council by the fourth Monday in March 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion has established the following priorities:

1. The City of Lansing will include in their FY 2022/2023 Budget public safety planning, a commitment, support and a partnership with Advance Peace which will help lives and reduce the life altering trauma experienced by people living in the impacted communities and by the service providers who support them, including law enforcement. Council asked the Administration to focus budget allocations to fully fund the City portion for FY 2022/2023.
2. \$500,000: (4) FTE Social Workers-(1) FTE Administrative Assistant (LFD)
3. \$125,000: (1) FTE Grant Writer (Neighborhood Citizen Engagement OR HRCS); RE: Assist Local Groups and organizations in grant research, grant writing and monitoring.

THIS WAS IN LAST YEARS (FY2021/2022) BUDGET PRIORITIES FROM THIS COMMITTEE

BY THE COMMITTEE ON EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Amaia Alysse Edmond Memorial was founded by her father, John Edmond, in 2010, after her passing; and

WHEREAS, her father and family, inspired by the tragic event of her passing, have worked diligently since that time to make the youth aware of the initiative to Keep the Peace, Stop the Violence and provide educational materials to teach the youth that violence is not the answer; and

WHEREAS, her father has continued to reach out to crime victims and their families to offer assistance after their loss and educate them on the Gift of Life organization; and

WHEREAS, the Gift of Life helped the Edmond family honor Amaia's life through donation, and she was able to save seven (7) lives and allow those to carry on their lives. Through their efforts the Gift of Life Michigan has given more than 9,000 Michigan patients life-saving organ transplants in the past 10 years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Lansing formally designates May 31st every year beginning in 2022, which would have been Amaia Alysse Edmonds birthday, as the Amaia Alysse Edmonds Gift of Life Day in the City of Lansing.