



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 August 11, 2021