



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Council Member Jackson, Chair
Council Member Brown, Vice-Chair
Council Member Hussain, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Mary Bowen, OCA
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Jake Brower, Finance
Desiree Kirkland, Finance

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 13, 2022 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PRESENTATION

CARES Funding; Eligible Spending

Council Member Jackson detailed that this presentation request was for Finance to speak to the diversity funding that is available and what is in the plans; whether in plans or ARPA.

Mr. Brower acknowledged the Committee, and stated in the FY2022-2023 budget, equity is under HRCS budget. A minimum of 10% of the budget line item this will be 146,000 for diversity and equity. This FY was split into two (2) agencies, issued by RFP for the Wards on issues on racial justice and equity. Council Member Jackson asked if this was a piece of the pie, that was a study to determine the basic human services to address equity and racial justice. Part 2, for FY2023 will be taking the findings of the reports and issuing an RFP to address those findings.

Council Member Brown asked about the additional percentage point on the focus for racial equity piece. The 1.25% was to meet the gap in services, and now proposed 1.35%. The 1.35% which is \$1.9 million, if there were agencies doing the racial equity work could apply for all of that, and voiced a concern that has not been done. He asked for clarification of the details on the website which was not expressed to the community. He asked what the connection is with the Mayors' Advisory work over the last few years, and towards the groups that have done in the community. Mr. Brower stated he cannot speak to the decision making process of HRCS in Implementing that grant. The goal is design programs to achieve the goals in the community.

Council Member Hussain asked if when it was pumped, was it addressing racial equity or injustice. Mr. Brower stated he could not speak to that, he deferred to the report. Council Member Hussain asked what two agencies handled this. Mr. Brower stated MPHI and MSU.

Council Member Jackson asked if there is anything else in the budget or Cares to discuss. Mr. Brower stated in HRCS they have a DEI specialist, and Mayor has a communications specialist, and overall to what extent can ARPA be used towards Diversity equity and inclusion, and they cannot be. Under Section 211, but might have changed under final rule, under FAQ overall cannot be used for dedicated DEI uses, but can use ARPA funds to address economic impacts that were impacted by COVID-19. He then referred to 2.9 on page 8 of the FAQ document dates April 27, 2022. He added that if there are specific uses they can look into it

Council Member Jackson referenced page 16 of the Overview of the Final Rule, there are options listed address low income and moderate households.

Mr. Brower confirmed they have proposed the spending of the \$49 million spending plan, exploring a UBI program for low income housing. Ms. Kirkland said this language will be added into agreements with the HRCS programs. This is part of the organizations that will receive funds in August from the CARES Act.

Council Member Hussain asked if CARES and ARPA are the same, and it was confirmed they are. Council Member Hussain asked if the ARPA funds will be broken down the large amounts. Ms. Kirkland stated the Mayor did a public presentation to the agencies in January, and from that they look at programs, capacity, and research proposed new programs. It was noted not everyone got exactly what they were asking for. Mr. Brower added as part of the process they will ask for data to make sure all the checks and balances can be addressed in the City reporting on the funding.

Council Member Jackson referred back to page 17-18 of the Overview, and in this Committee addresses responding to impacts, and asked how much funds will be going to each checked item on page 18. This allows Council to know these areas are being impacted. Ms. Kirkland stated they can look into that based on the applications they have gotten. It was confirmed to get the information to Council by May 9th so Council has the material to review before the final adoption of the budget on May 16th.

Council Member Brown noted that looking at the ARPA list that was provided, it does have a lot going to a groups that are already established and into the community doing the work. He noted also his concern is the execution and fiduciary responsibility.

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION – Potential Policy/Procedure on LPD Process and Complaint Business Card

Chief Sosebee contacted Council Member Jackson prior to the meeting, stated he was not able to attend and this discussion was moved to the meeting on May 11, 2022. Council Member Jackson stated at that meeting the Chief will provide an update on the traffic stop practice.

Council Member Hussain added that the neighborhoods need to be educated on the policies also. Mr. Smiertka stated that the OCA can do some LPD training as well.

OTHER

No other topics of discussion.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Submitted, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on May 11, 2022