

October 27, 2020

Meeting Open: 5:34 p.m.

Attendees: Dottie Morris (out at 5:56 p.m. & return 6:10 p.m.), Devon Chaffee, Charlie Dennis, Maria Devlin, Sharon Harris, Ahni Malachi, Salman Malik, James Morse, Pawn Nitichan, Robert Quin, Eli Rivera, Allyson Ryder, Sean Locke, Rogers Johnson

Quorum: Yes

Approval of Minutes: Approved Unanimously

Rescheduling November and December Meetings:

- Upcoming meetings will fall on holiday weeks and could cause scheduling issues.
- November 17 and December 15 are the proposed dates.
- November would not work for some; December 1 works for most.
- **Motion:** To move November 24 meeting to December 1 and December 22 to December 15.
 - Unanimous

Report Writing Committee Update and Reporting Out the Council's Work:

- Conceiving of the report writing over the next 2-3 weeks that would summarize what the Council has done over the past year.
- Update on where the recommendation from the previous year and where they are in progress.
- Refresh the community about the GCERT recommendations that we planned to prioritize.
- Discussion of where we see things going in 2021.
- Also going back to communities that we've been in touch with to give an update on our work. We could do this remotely with some Zoom sessions.
- Report writing committee will work on this and report it out to the full Council for review and discussion.
- Concern expressed about relaying the information back out to the public.
- How has this been done in the past? Difficult to widely distribute. Report was read, but not sure on how widely it was read. We need to do a better job of highlighting what we do as some in our communities do not know what we do.
- Suggestion of some press release and press outreach to highlight the work. Could work with DOJ, DHHS, or Safety.
- Enlist the assistance of the Governor's Office to publicize the report.
- Developing talking points to answer questions from the public/media.
- Timeline issue: When would we be reporting out? Probably not before next meeting. January could be a better time for reporting out.
- Thinking about some of our key foci for the upcoming year and invite outreach and contact.

- Sean can work with the Governor's office to get a debut for the report and advertising the Council's work.
- Gathering up emails and contact information from prior engagements with the public to create an elist, which we had discussed with the report writing committee. Those who came in person is the starting point along with some larger community partners.
- Discussion of media strategy. Report first and then press aspects after.

Discussion of the Hate-Speech Statement/Letter to Governor's Office:

- Traveling throughout Cheshire County seeing vandalism on political signs, use of swastikas, ongoing replacement and damage of signs. Sheriff Rivera sees them as he travels through the County and disturbing comments. Brought the idea of issuing a statement to the Exec Comm.
- Discussion of incidents: New London where a fake skeleton attached to the grill of a truck and sign suggesting that the skeleton was a BLM protestor that the driver ran over; Rochester where people shouted racial slurs at BLM demonstrators.
- Theft of or vandalism of signs on private property; feels like this is picking up more recently.
- Recently issues of students being harassed at school when parents have posted BLM signs on their properties and students asking parents to remove the signs for their safety. Theft incident where signs have been replaced 14 times.
- Sending it to the Governor and release it to the public. Doing outreach to law enforcement to step it up and responding to the vandalism or identify and stop the violence. More synergy with law enforcement to make law enforcement aware of them.
- Encouraging contact with local law enforcement.
- Possible thought to hear a report out from LEACT about the next steps.
- **Motion:** To send the letter—
 - **Discussion:** We have resources on the Council to elevate the incidents and bring attention to them and to encourage action. Commissioner Quinn and Chief Dennis are willing to be resources to help push the issues and highlight the incidents.
 - Value of sharing the images. Possible op-ed. Education for law enforcement agencies from the Council to raise the issues and put them on the radar of the Chiefs.
 - Highlighting the piece with the specific incident.
 - Discussion of the use of law enforcement against instances of speech.
 - The idea is to encourage condemnation of the speech at issue. The way to fight hate speech is to condemn it and shine a light on it.
 - Discussion of how quickly the statement must be issued. Sending it just to the Governor overlooks the work of those in the communities around the State. An opportunity for law enforcement to do some community connecting.
 - We could cc others. The longer we wait, the longer the people impacted feel that they are suffering alone.

- Value in certain people hearing from the Governor that he condemns this type of behavior. Sending it out sooner rather than later will help quash the sense of intimidation that members of the public feel.
- Conversation with Stay, Work, Play folks about retaining diverse populations, this is one of the issues with retention.
- Potential to add a resource list for contacting law enforcement/Civil Rights Unit and others should people notice hate-speech and hate conduct.
- **Amendment to motion**: To include the minor edits based on tonight's discussion. No need to delay further.
 - 13 yeas; 1 abstention

Discussion of GCERT recommendations:

- Postponed to December 1 meeting.
- Goal is to have some thought about how to move forward with our recommendations that we chose to pursue from the GCERT report.
- Have a member of DHHS present

New Business:

- No new business.

Public Comment:

- None.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn: 7:09 p.m.