



Equity and Empowerment Commission
Thursday, September 15, 2022 @ 6:30 AM
Virtual

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:

Devon Reid, Councilmember, Omar Salem, Commissioner, Darlene Cannon, Commissioner, Jane Grover, Commissioner, and Karla Thomas, Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

LaShandra Rayfield, Commissioner, Kady McFadden, Commissioner,

STAFF PRESENT:

Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Councilmember Reid called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the August 13, 2022 Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting Minutes

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A.

Commissioner Thomas mentioned she had received an email from Jacqueline Manley. In summary, Jacqueline noted that she would like to share her thoughts on the Public Nudity Ban ordinance. Jacqueline shared that downtown and the lakefront are some highlights for residents and visitors. Should the environment shift to one that is less family-friendly, where visitors are subjected to nudity, her family would reframe from bringing their dollars to the area. Jacqueline hopes the discussion end promptly regarding this matter and that the livelihood of small businesses and several black businesses are taken into consideration.

4. DISCUSSION

A. Nudity Ban Ordinance

Commissioner Thomas shared that this issue would be viewed from an equity perspective. Councilmember Reid added that this topic was part of a suite of referrals he made around criminal justice reform. Councilmember Reid summarized his Public Nudity Ban referral. He noted his goal for making this referral was to eliminate the gender-specific language. He also mentioned other neighboring communities do not have this specified gendered language in

their ordinance.

Commissioner Thomas advised the Commission to look at the criminal code with the intent to reduce the number of interactions with police around frivolous actions. She also urged the Commission to look at Evanston youth's role in working to eliminate gendered dress code rules. Councilmember Reid recommended that the Commission consider mirroring the State of Illinois Public Nudity and Decency Law, which is gender neutral. Commissioner Grover recommended doing away with the current ordinance in place of a new ordinance. Commissioner Cannon recommended aligning the City's ordinance with those of neighboring communities.

Karla noted she would draft a response based on the Commissioners' feedback.

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN WORKING SESSION

A. Equity Scorecard Integration into the Public Engagement Plan

Commissioner Thomas introduced Adam Slade, a consultant hired by the City to develop the Public Engagement Plan. Mr. Slade was tasked with designing the Public Engagement Plan as the Environmental Justice Resolution directed. He shared activities, tasks, and deliverables. Commissioner Thomas emphasized the equity component of the Public Engagement Plan. Mr. Slade obtained feedback regarding the formulation of the Public Engagement Policy

B. How can the EEC support the Public Engagement Plan and eventual Ordinance

Mr. Slade noted he could incorporate the Equity Scorecard designed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Thomas explained that the goal of the Equity Scorecard is to ensure the impact on affected populations and stakeholders is considered and that the proper steps are taken to make a policy equitable. Adam received additional feedback from the Commissioners regarding the use of the Scorecard.

6. CONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

7. COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Thomas mentioned reviewing the plan for the Equity Survey Report at the October meeting.

8. REPORTS

There were no reports.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Karla adjourned the meeting at 8:04 P.M.