



Equity and Empowerment Commission
Thursday, October 20, 2022 @ 6:30 AM
Virtual

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

LaShandra Rayfield, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of the September 15, 2022 Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting Minutes

Moved by Councilmember Reid to approve the September 15, 2022, Equity and Empowerment Commission meeting minutes

Seconded by Commissioner Grover

Ayes: Councilmember Reid, Commissioner Member McFadden, Commissioner Member Salem,
Commissioner Cannon, Commissioner Grover, and Chair Thomas

Approved 6-0 on a recorded vote

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There were no public comments.

4. DISCUSSION

- A. Approval of the Recommended Nudity Ordinance Changes

Chair Thomas shared she had developed a letter based on the Commissioners' feedback regarding the proposed changes to the Nudity Ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Grover to move the adoption of the letter as a recommendation to the Human Services Committee.

Seconded by Councilmember Reid

Ayes: Councilmember Reid, Commissioner Member McFadden, Commissioner Salem, Commissioner Cannon, Commissioner Grover, and Chair Thomas

Approved 6-0 on a recorded vote

B. Considerations for Affordable Housing

- *Anti-Predatory* - The Commissioners discussed prohibiting predatory tactics by residential real estate developers that might lead homeowners to sell their property. It was moved by Councilmember Reid and seconded by Commissioner Cannon to move forward the Anti-predatory Ordinance to the Human Services Committee.
- *Raising Demo Fee*-The Commissioners discussed raising the affordable housing demolition tax to \$20,000 for the demolition of a single-family residential structure, \$24,000 for each additional unit above the first 2-5 unit buildings, and \$27,500 for each unit above 5 units not to exceed 20 units. It was moved by Commissioner Grover and seconded by Councilmember Reid to move forward the revisions to the demolition tax to the Planning and Development Committee. The motion carried unanimously.
- *Maintaining Building Unit Count*-Chair -Thomas noted that over the last 13 years, 44% of all deconversions were in the second ward. The fourth ward was the second most affected ward, with a 16% deconversion rate over the last 13 years.

Chair Thomas shared that the purpose of this ordinance is to reduce the displacement of low to moderate-income residential units and housing stock, specifically two to four-unit buildings that often provide naturally occurring affordable housing units in Evanston.

It was moved by Commissioner McFadden and seconded by Commissioner Cannon to move forward the Preservation of Building Unit Ordinance to the Housing and Community Development Committee.

- *Affordable Housing Qualification - 100% to 120%* - Chair Thomas mentioned that Interim Community Development Director Sarah Flax, in their meeting, recommended raising the area median income of households eligible for assistance from 100% AMI to at least 120% AMI. Commissioners shared that the recommendation increases the demand, but not much is done to increase the supply.

Chair Thomas also shared other recommendations such as low-interest loans for creating ADUs, Airbnb restrictions, land trust for moderate, affordable housing, tax rebates for affordable housing, and ways of funding the local affordable housing fund.

- C. **Plan for Equity Survey Report Summary**
This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

5. **CONSIDERATION**
There were no items for consideration.

6. **COMMUNICATION**
There was no communication.

7. **REPORTS**
There were no reports.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**
Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.