



## Equity and Empowerment Commission

Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Hybrid

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

**COMMITTEE MEMBER  
PRESENT:**

Devon Reid, Councilmember, Hilda Morales, Commissioner, Darlene Cannon, Commissioner, Jane Grover, Kady McFadden, Commissioner, Commissioner, Molly Malone, Commissioner and Karla Thomas, Chair

**COMMITTEE MEMBER  
ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager

**1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order a 6:35 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Approval of the April 20, 2023 Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting Minutes**  
Commissioners McFadden and Morales shared they were present at the April meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Grover, and seconded by Commissioner Cannon, to approve the April 20, 2023 Empowerment Commission meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. (6-0)

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Trisha Connolly said they are excited that the Commission would discuss the Community Benefits Agreement regarding the Ryan Field Stadium.

**4. REFERRAL TRACKER**

- A. **Review the list of referrals on the [Referral Tracker](#)**

Commissioner Thomas reviewed referrals 86-93. Commissioner Malone explained the referral to expand eligibility for the residential parking district near Central Street. Commissioner Thomas suggested sending the Referral Committee a memo in support of the referral. Commissioner Grover suggested developing a template for EEC memos.

The Commissioners reviewed the referral to ban flavored tobacco products. Councilmember Reid recommended the EEC analyze the use of menthol products. Commissioner Thomas suggested the EEC conduct community engagement on this topic.

Councilmember Reid noted this referral may have consequences for businesses that do sell tobacco products. Commissioner Cannon inquired whether other communities have banned these products.

The Commission noted it might look at the civility pledge.

**B. Referral Committee Communication Update**

Councilmember Reid shared he is planning to make a referral to allow undocumented residents the opportunity to vote. He would like assistance from the EEC. Councilmember Reid also shared he would inquire about Baby Bonds for low-income residents.

**5. CHAIR NOMINATIONS**

**A. Nominations**

Commissioner Thomas noted Commissioner Cannon expressed her interest in becoming the Chair. Commissioner Grover nominated Commissioner Cannon.

**B. Voting for a New EEC Chair**

It was moved by Commissioner Malone, and seconded by Chair Thomas, to approve Commissioner Cannon as the Chair of the EEC. Roll call (7-0); motion passed unanimously.

**6. DISCUSSION**

**A. Affordable Housing Ordinance Update - Demolition Tax**

Chair Thomas shared that City Council passed the Demolition Tax. Councilmember Reid added that the other two affordable items need to be referred by the Councilmembers.

**B. Presentation of Inclusion Ordinance**

Chair Thomas shared she researched other municipalities that have gender-inclusive ordinances. Chair Thomas provided some concepts to include in a gender-inclusive ordinance.

**C. Referrals for EEC members**

Chair Thomas shared she has reached out to the Mayor to appoint new members to the Commission. Chair Thomas inquired about other ways the Commissioners could outreach to residents to join the EEC. Councilmember Reid suggested Commissioner Cannon attend the ward meetings to share the opportunity.

**D. Northwestern CBA**

Commissioner Cannon stated that the community should consider what it wants from Northwestern. She would like something tangible, in writing, regarding the asks of Northwestern. She stated she would like Northwestern to prioritize hiring residents, especially low-income folks so that they can stay in the community. She also suggested recommending an annual donation to the community added to the City budget and how those funds could be allocated to folks that Northwestern has displaced.

Chair Thomas inquired whether those conversations are being had with Northwestern and where the Commission could help. Ms. Kerr responded that she had heard many ideas about what should be included in a CBA agreement. The Commission might want to consider surveying the community. Ms. Kerr also recommended the Commission speak to City Manager Stowe and Mayor Biss to determine how the Commission could be helpful.

Commissioner Grover recommended the City to conduct an equity analysis of the zoning amendments and to negotiate a CBA.

**7. CONSIDERATION**

**8. COMMUNICATION**

**9. REPORTS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.