



**PARTICIPANTS**

Commission Members Present:

Kelsey Murray, Vice Chair; Laura Fouts; Joaquin Lara Midkiff; Lisa Novak; Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen; David Rheinholdt, Hope Strayer

Guests Present:

Kirra Pressey; Angelina; Jenny Barischoff; Elana Lynn; Lynelle Wilcox

Staff Present:

Gretchen Bennett, Lt. Robert Dowd

**1. Call to Order, Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Vice Chair Murray welcomed the group and facilitated introductions. The You Tube channel transmission/recording was noted.

**2. Public Comment**

None provided

**3. Consent Calendar: Agenda and Minutes**

Commissioner Novak moved the approval of the consent calendar. Commissioner Fouts seconded the motion. The motion to approve the consent calendar was unanimously approved.

**4. Action and/or Discussion Items:**

**a. Sanctuary City**

Jenny Barischoff, MPH, Co-Director of Ariana House was welcomed. Per the discussion coming out of last year's belonging survey, with higher rates of indigenous communities not reporting hate or bias, the Commission has questions around the related factors and how to increase trust and reporting.

Jenny clarified she is not an attorney and that she works with refugees and immigrants in Salem. She is opening immigration legal services in Salem in August. She shared a story of a person concerned about if reporting a crime could compromise her asylum application. Jenny noted Salem is not listed as a sanctuary city in a guide provided by The US Citizenship and Immigration Services. She clarified the refugee and asylum process.

She emphasized that people feel tenuous for a long time. People are monitored (photo submission weekly, monthly in-person check-ins). Commissioner Lara Midkiff spoke to both a

legal and an educational side to the topic. He noted we are exploring recommending adding citizenship to the Chapter 97 list of identities. Discussion ensued about the sense of being in limbo or tenuous can lead a person to not want to be visible or to make waves, which can contribute to a hesitancy to report hate or bias.

The group discussed an increase in Spanish speaking refugees and incarceration, about convening a criminal justice and immigration round table, and the current work with the community violence reduction initiative. Language interpretation was discussed. Jenny observed learning *how* to work with interpreters is important.

#### **b. Bias Crime Update**

Lt. Dowd noted no new reports of crimes nor incidents. He noted they do not yet have a response from the Dept. of Justice on Salem specific information. He followed up on a question from Commissioner Marshall at a previous meeting. The question related to taking a deeper dive into reports e.g. how many reports relate to people who are black or African American and crime victims? Lt. Dowd noted the time involved and the request for information formal process. He spoke about an additional situation that has not been yet verified that he became aware of.

#### **c. Complaints**

Gretchen shared about two situations.

#### **d. Bylaws Revision**

Gretchen walked through proposed edits to the bylaws, some of which were noted at the last meeting, and some were newly presented in the meeting material. Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen offered two edits.

Commissioner Novak moved approval of the bylaws revisions as presented with the two edits from Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen. Commissioner Strayer seconded the motion. The motion to amend the bylaws as presented and edited was unanimously approved.

#### **e. Formation of new task forces: Houselessness Summit, Data Visualization**

Vice Chair Murray introduced the idea to form two new committees: one on houselessness summit and one on data visualization.

Commissioner Lara Midkiff discussed a recent meeting some had with City GIS and communication staff. Discussion was about data presentation that can telegraph our impact and our process. It was recommended that the commission have a data visualization or management group. Commissioners Novak and Fouts expressed possible interest.

Discussion was briefly noted about providing some assistance to Commissioner Marshall in the execution of a Houselessness Summit.

Commissioner Novak moved to approve the formation of both committees. Commissioner Strayer seconded the motion. Commissioner Lara Midkiff offered an amendment to the motion that the Houselessness Summit would be a Task Force, instead of a Committee, given it is time limited. The amendment was unanimously approved, as was the motion to create a Houselessness Summit Task Force and a Data Visualization Committee.

#### **f. Parliamentary Procedure Refresher**

Gretchen provided a brief PowerPoint presentation prepared by the City's Legal Department. The group discussed valuing the option to become more formal as needed. Vice Chair Murray noted a 'point of order' can be initiated any time one is needed.

#### **5. Committee and Project Updates:**

- a. Community Engagement:** Commissioner Lara Midkiff noted time last week was yielded to the Commission for a full Commission meeting. He thanked everyone for their integrity and compassion through the recent meetings. The Belonging Survey is live now in four languages. Over 4,000 Spanish speakers received it via a list serve from CAPACES.
- b. Homelessness Information Summit:** No report.
- c. LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights:** Vice Chair Murray spoke of discussion about barriers to reporting within LGBTQIA+ communities at the top six locations where discrimination occurs. An email was developed to send to these locations.

#### **6. Staff Updates:**

- Re: Gaza resolution –
  - Gretchen clarified if she should also have sent the empathetic toned draft resolution to City Council, along with transmittal of the cover letter and resolution as approved at the May 1 meeting. Discussion clarified no, that was an earlier version and what was sent was correct.
  - Gretchen noted that the cover letter contained an error as she had mistakenly not included the correct sentence proposed by Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen. Commissioner Lara Midkiff added that there could also be reference to the petition noted by one person in public comment. The group agreed Gretchen will edit the cover letter to include these items and to resend to all who had received already.

#### **7. Calendar:**

Commissioner Strayer discussed upcoming events.

#### **8. Member Remarks and Announcements:**

None provided.

*Minutes respectfully presented by staff Gretchen Bennett.*

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