



# **Mayor's Task Force** for Racial & Ethnic Equality

## **Finance, Banking & Business Co-Chairs Meeting**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Zoom Meeting**

#### **Call to Order & Attendance Quorum**

Bill Jacobson, Finance, Banking & Business subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m. Due to scheduling issues, the meeting has been shortened and some parts have been skipped.

#### **Approval of June Meeting Minutes**

The June 2<sup>nd</sup> co-chair minutes will be approved at a later date.

#### **Process for Subcommittee Recommended Strategies**

The subcommittees are now beginning the next phase of action, which is to draft recommendations and submit them to the Task Force for review. The subcommittee will have their July and August meetings to brainstorm their official recommendations. The recommendations will then be reviewed by the Task Force and September 24<sup>th</sup> would be when the Task Force will begin approving ideas that will be presented to the City Commission during its September meeting.

Currently, the Finance, Banking, & Business subcommittee has a compiled ideas list that will need to be narrowed down to the top recommendations by the August 26<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting so that Task Force members can refine and review by the City Commission.

During the previous Task Force meeting, many co-chairs expressed the need to collaborate on certain priorities because some of them intersected/overlapped between subcommittees. A subcommittee co-chairs meeting will ideally be scheduled sometime in late July before the Task Force meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **July Subcommittee Meeting Agenda**

Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, reviewed the July subcommittee meeting agenda. Bill Jacobson said he liked the agenda but is worried about being able to cover all of the topics because it is a lot of "food for thought."

#### **Discussion**

The subcommittee co-chairs reviewed their ideas list and discussed some modifications and clarifications that should be added. Bill Jacobson mentioned that more clarification should be added around the types of contracts, city or private enterprise. He also thinks a certain percentage of contracts should be private enterprise contracts. Leontyne Brown, subcommittee co-chair, said the city has incentives in place for minority businesses, but there are still issues with awarding these contracts. She wants to find where the disparity lies and provide recommendations as to why the disparity is still there. Bill Jacobson agreed and said the city criteria should be reviewed.



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Bill Jacobson also mentioned that serious oversight is needed for specific programs that are giving out loans and grants, as well as an understanding of how the money will be utilized in the process. Leontyne Brown agreed.

Bill Jacobson asked for clarification as to whether the "green market" in the ideas list is referencing the West Palm Beach Green Market or a general green market. Leontyne Brown mentioned the ongoing WPB Green Market disparities. She noted that not as many black-owned businesses have not been able to participate in the WPB Green Market because of potential personal taste biases from the all-white food taster's panel. "Every ethnic pallet is different. Bill Jacobson agreed and said that the betting process should be further looked into. He mentioned the idea of creating a new Green Market separate from the WPB Green Market that is open on different days, has different types of vendors, etc. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, noted that the WPB Green Market was voted #1 in the Country by USA today. The question should then be focused on how the subcommittee could make the WPB Green Market more inclusive for diverse entrepreneurs and vendors who are typically excluded because of increased barriers. The selection process should be more inclusive. Leontyne Brown agreed and said the process should be thoroughly reviewed. Leontyne answered Bill Jacobson's initial question about which green market is being referenced, she stated she thinks it is the WPB Green Market. Bill Jacobson still likes the idea of another green market and still wants to explicitly clarify which green market is being referred to in the ideas list.

Leontyne Brown asked Kayla Elson about the process of getting through the ideas list for the next subcommittee meeting. Kayla Elson shared that the ideas list will be sent to subcommittee members prior to the subcommittee meeting, and members will be asked to prioritize their top three ideas out of the list and comment as they see fit on the document. The goal of the meeting would be to figure out where the priority is by next Wednesday's meeting. Leontyne Brown said it is important to be clear that all the ideas cannot be reviewed at the meeting, Bill Jacobson said he will email further comments about the list.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. by Bill Jacobson. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### Present:

Leontyne Brown, Task Force Co-Chair  
Bill Jacobson, Task Force Co-Chair

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office  
Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates  
Emma Lipsky, Justice & Sustainability Associates

### Absent: