



WEST PALM BEACH

City

Administration

Mayor's
for Racial &
Task Force
Ethnic Equality

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

5:30pm

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order & Attendance Quorum

Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm beach Mayor's Office, welcomed everyone and announced that this is a special subcommittee meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure subcommittee members are aligned on expectations for the Action Summit and answer any other questions. Gopal Rajegowda, subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. Tiffany David took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice and Sustainability Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda.

June 12th Action Summit

Subcommittee members first reviewed Action Summit thoughts and items. When it comes to the Action Summit itself, Health is the second conversation for the day. Attendees will be in breakout rooms discussing Health subcommittee priorities and ideas. Members were encouraged to listen to community members. They are allowed to answer questions but should be mindful about keeping a balanced conversation.

Next, subcommittee members discussed the Health survey. There have been 13 responses so far. George Soria, subcommittee co-chair, said he had difficulties navigating the Health survey on the website. Kayla Elson stated that the survey will be announced at the Action Summit. Tiffany David said she will make sure the survey is translated into Spanish and Creole before the Action Summit.

George Soria asked if there was a list of senior residents for survey purposes. Kayla said there is not a list of individual names but organizations that the outreach team has been in contact with about the Action Summit. George Soria said he wanted to share information with the Task Force related to a particular issue that is occurring.

George Soria thinks more physical outreach should be done. Naomi Ruth Cobb, subcommittee member, mentioned communication barriers with technology and outreach to communities not accessible via technology. Devin Pierce, subcommittee member, agreed.

Devin Pierce asked about the next steps after the Action Summit. Kayla Elson said that it shifts to recommendations from the subcommittees that go to the Task Force for review, which then go to the City Commission and the Mayor for review and approval. There is not a confirmed date for the next Action Summit.

**City Hall - 401
Clematis Street –
P.O. Box 3366 – West
Palm Beach – Florida**



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Tiffany David elaborated and said that the Mayor wants the recommendations to be right not rushed. He is looking for an update sometime in the fall, but the executive order goes until 2022.

Tiffany David announced the possibility of having an “All Hands” meeting where all Task Force and subcommittee members attend and have an opportunity to meet each other and hear directly about progress and look at areas where there is synergy and overlap before recommendations are made.

George Soria commented that some people are skeptical that nothing is going to change, but counters with the fact that the subcommittees/Task Force are working on making a change, and community input and feedback is critical for that. Naomi Ruth Cobb agreed.

Tiffany David also announced that Milena Almetica, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, connected with Project Access, a Florida medical society which is focused on providing access to healthcare for minorities. Milena Almetica also connected with Shalonda Warren (also a Commissioner), the CEO of the Sickle Cell Foundation, which is also involved with providing support for those who are suffering from Sickle Cell (among other diseases) by connecting them with healthcare resources and making them aware of different opportunities in the community. Tiffany David discussed having Shalonda Warren join future meetings and wanted to get members’ input on hosting her as a guest.

George Soria said he would love to have a conversation with Warren and Project Access because their day-to-day perspective is valuable. George Soria stated that there are a lot of challenges right now (like skeptics not believing medicine) which it is important members try and get a feel of the “heartbeat” of the people. Devin Pierce agreed and asked what metrics could be gauged from this. Naomi Ruth Cobb added that there are a lot of nuances to look at that tie to community health such as poor dental care. Subcommittee members agreed and discussed more details.

Adjourn

George Soria encouraged members to spread word about the survey. He then called the meeting to close at 6:27 p.m. The next normal subcommittee meeting will be Tuesday, June 15th, 2021, 5:30 – 7 p.m.



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ATTENDANCE

Present:

George Soria, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Gopal Rajegowda, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Naomi Ruth Cobb, Subcommittee Member

Devin Pierce, Subcommittee Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office

Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Emma Lipsky, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Absent:

Jennifer Jean Bell, Subcommittee Member

Jerry Deng, Subcommittee Member

Mary Ligon, Subcommittee Member