

**REAL ESTATE & HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

**3:30 pm**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Call to Order**

Danita Nias, subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda.

**April 21st Meeting Minutes**

No comments were made about the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes; the meeting minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

**Discussion: Strategies Towards Initial Priorities**

Parisa Hamzesh, subcommittee member, asked about the subcommittee timeline and expectations before and after the June 12<sup>th</sup> Action Summit. Danita Nias clarified that the subcommittee did not have to have a specific number of ideas chosen from the two priorities, but to just put support behind certain strategies that will go to the Task Force.

Danita Nias recommended starting with priority one, affordable housing. Subcommittee members discussed more details about affordable housing such as rezoning, strategic investment, and vacant lots and their ownership. Tiffany David recommended looking at what other governments are doing for vacant lot ownership and to bring in someone who is a city planner to help understand zoning and the opportunities to build affordable housing. Then from the ideas list for priority one, subcommittee members discussed "partnerships and investment" with the idea to use young people to improve distressed property; and "quality rental housing" with the idea to develop strategies to discourage investors from holding onto the dedicated property in impoverished communities.

Under priority two, support for homeownership, subcommittee members discussed bringing together all the information from city non-profits to share with community members and to use city marketing tools to spread the information. A greater investment in programs that help people purchase homes should be considered as well. Other topics discussed include a tax abatement program, safeguards for people transitioning from renting to home buying, and access to finances to support home ownership.



# Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

## June 12<sup>th</sup> Action Summit

Subcommittee members were requested to register for and advertise the Action Summit if they have not already. They are encouraged to listen and only give comments when needed.

## Public Comment

Serena Hoermann, attendee, asked about paying young people for improving the distressed properties or hiring adults instead. In response, it was stated that young have to complete volunteer hours and would not get their hours if they were paid. Serena Hoermann then commented about addressing zoning and stated that it is important to enforce code in combination with rent control/other affordability so that these improvements do not displace people. Craig Glover, attendee, asked the subcommittee to include creative zoning changes that would allow townhomes or duplexes to be built on single family lots to improve quality affordable housing options. Craig Glover also asked if subcommittee members addressed elderly residents and their homeownership education needs and obstacles. Suzanne Cabrera, attendee, invited the subcommittee to her organization's (Housing Leadership Council) monthly stakeholders meeting.

## Next steps

Subcommittee members will register and advertise the June 12<sup>th</sup> Action Summit.

## Adjournment

Antoinne Wright, subcommittee co-chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m. The next meeting will be on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom.



# Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

## ATTENDANCE

### Public:

Serena Hoermann  
Craig Glover  
Suzanne Cabrera

### Present:

Danita Nias, Subcommittee Co-Chair  
Antoinne Wright, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Ontario Davis Johnson, Subcommittee Member  
Parisa Hamzetash, Subcommittee Member  
Michael Odum, Subcommittee member  
Ezra Gene Saffold, Subcommittee Member

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

### Absent:

Maricela Torres, Subcommittee Member