



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

Mayor's Task Force
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, July 23, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Patrick Franklin, co-chair of the Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office, took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Patrick Franklin reviewed the agenda and approval of the meeting minutes.

Approval of June 24th Minutes

The minutes of the June 24th Task Force meeting were unanimously approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, opened the floor for subcommittee report share-outs. Co-chairs from each subcommittee presented their reports. Currently, subcommittees are discussing and selecting their top draft recommended ideas for Task Force review.

Daniel Eisinger provided a report on the Criminal Justice subcommittee. The subcommittee is focusing on the civilian review board and the recruitment of more diverse police officers. Alexandria Marie Ayala provided a report on the Education & Workforce Development subcommittee. The subcommittee is focusing on improving offerings of career development/workforce training for youth and young adults by increasing accessibility; the other is elevating and attracting quality resources and staff to schools. George Soria provided a report on the Health subcommittee. The Health subcommittee is focusing on mobile health services, food accessibility, building trust in the community, and increasing mental health services. Bill Jacobson provided a report on the Finance, Banking, & Business subcommittee. The subcommittee is focusing on building better relationships and accessibility between small businesses and financial institutions, and addressing the wealth gap by providing education, resources, and incentives for community members and financial institutions. The Real Estate and Housing report was provided by AJ Wright. The Real Estate & Housing subcommittee is focusing on vacant lot utilization, increasing code enforcement especially in blighted areas, and improving high quality rental housing by providing incentives.

Long Term Solutions to Addressing Racial Equities with Darryl Finkton

Tiffany David introduced Darryl Finkton Jr. Darryl Finkton Jr. is looking to reduce poverty with basic universal income. Darryl Finkton Jr. shared about his "End poverty,



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make trillions” tour, his portfolio, and innovative ways his evergreen fund is working to address issues related to ethnic/racial inequities.

Darryl Finkton Jr. is traveling across the country talking with people in low-income communities and learning about how poverty is impacting them. He calculated that investing \$200 billion can “save trillions.” He recently expanded his evergreen fund to social entrepreneurs and helps provide financial support. He said would like to provide support to the Task Force as well.

Q&A

Task Force members asked Darryl Finkton Jr. about the work he has done and his portfolio. Darryl Finkton Jr. said that his evergreen fund gave out loans or equity investments, explaining that they do not want to run the company they invest in, just want to provide a resources and support. When finding entrepreneurial opportunities, Darry Finkton Jr. stated that poverty is an American issue, and that most of the groups he partners with are non-governmental such as non-profits. Darryl Finkton Jr. said one of the biggest challenges of working with social entrepreneurs is that many believe they are incapable of running a business. He also noted that, while not everyone aims to become an entrepreneur, there are also those who do not have the access to knowledge to basic accounting and finance skills, which are at least easily teachable.

Darryl Finkton Jr. explained that the source of funding is from donations from individuals and profits earned from invested companies that get reinvested into the fund. Darryl Finkton Jr. said the fund does focus on qualifications, as long as the entrepreneur wants to and is given a chance to build something for their community. The YouTube channel is End Poverty Make Trillions, and the video about West Palm Beach will be posted on the channel soon. Task Force members then discussed resources in the area related to the priorities.

Discussion

Donzell Robinson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, gave an overview of Task Force next steps and expectations from now until October. At the August 26th Task Force meeting (which is potentially in-person), the subcommittees will present their draft recommendations and Task Force members will begin to review the recommendations to ensure they cover the intent, origin, and specific resources needed from Mayor James and the City Commission. The presentation of recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission by the Task Force co-chairs will happen by mid to late September.

Next Steps

The Task Force will potentially have its next meeting in August in-person, more details are to come.



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Adjournment

Patrick Franklin and Michelle Diffenderfer, Task Force co-chairs, gave closing remarks. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. by Patrick Franklin. The next meeting will be on August 26th, at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Michelle Diffenderfer, Task Force Co-Chair
Patrick Franklin, Task Force Co-Chair

Alexandria Marie Ayala, Task Force Member
Alexcia Cox, Task Force Member
Ana Bacas, Task Force Member
Bryce Graham, Task Force Member
Julie Fisher Cummings, Task Force Member
Daniel Eisinger, Task Force Member
Maria Antuña, Task Force Member
Juan Pagan, Task Force Member
Antoinne Wright, Task Force Member
Alisha Winn, Task Force Member
George Soria, Task Force Member
Gopal Rajegowda, Task Force Member
Sally Chester, Task Force Member
Bill Jacobson, Task Force Member
Leontyne Brown, Task Force Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office
Farah Nerette, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office
Donzell Robinson, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Milena Almetica, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Emma Lipsky, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Guest Speaker:

Darryl Finkton Jr.

Absent:

Chauncey Graham, Task Force Member
Danita Nias, Task Force Member
Dina Rubio, Task Force Member
Faye Johnson, Task Force Member



WEST PALM BEACH
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Jennifer Jean Bell, Task Force Member
Jerry Deng, Task Force Member
Rick Asnani, Task Force Member
Tameca West, Task Force Member