



CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 2020
Microsoft Teams Meeting
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 5:07 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Irene Riley, Clint Loftman, Emma Kelsey, Azalea Renfield, and Aileen Hernandez.

City Staff Attendance: Brian Cheu (MOHCD), Mike King (MOHCD) and David Taylor (OEWD).

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. **Meeting minutes from September 17, 2020 were motioned, with corrections requested, by Azalea Renfield, seconded by Clint Loftman, and approved unanimously by the Committee.**

3. Director's Report (*Discussion Item*)

- a. MOHCD is anticipating a second round of CDBG Cares Act funding. The City is looking to support a combination of rental subsidies, economic and workforce development, digital equity, homeownership assistance, and COVID-related capital improvements. All allocations will be decided in consultation with the Mayor's Budget Office.
- b. MOHCD has had a number of conversations with community coalitions, including the Latino Parity and Equity Coalition (LPEC). LPEC recently submitted a number of requests to the City for COVID-related services. The Latino community has been the hardest hit by COVID infections. LPEC asked for an increase in MOHCD's eviction prevention funding and short-term rental assistance. By the time departments received the advocacy letter from LPEC, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors had closed their budget process. Now MOHCD is trying to figure out how to support those needs; existing one-time COVID-related funds are already being deployed to the Latino community.
- c. MOHCD set aside \$1 million in General Funds specifically for direct services to the African American community. We recently selected 9 nonprofit organizations that had not been previously recommended for funding through the 2020-2025 Community Development RFP. The procurement was very well-received. Brian Cheu and Malik Loper made personal calls to all of the grantees. While MOHCD has a long way to go, it was a good

first step to repair relationships with Black-led organizations. We have another \$1 million for capacity building to Black-led organizations, and we are in the process of figuring out the best way to get those dollars out to the community.

4. **Committee Members' Report** (*Discussion Item*)

- a. Azalea Renfield asked about Committee seats. Brian explained that all members are on "hold-over" status. The BOS Rules Committee has slowed their process for filling seats as a result of COVID. MOHCD has not heard from them yet. The Mayor has expressed an interest in filling the four vacant seats. She may be interested in filling those seats with persons affiliated with the Black-led organizations initiative. There is no timeline yet for filling vacant seats.

5. **Planning for More Community Engagement** (*Discussion Item*)

- a. Brian provided an overview of ideas for building greater community engagement.
 - Invite nonprofit coalitions to attend future CCCD meetings and express their priorities and pressing issues prior to funding decisions.

Members discussed.

Members liked this idea. It could be more personable and less bureaucratic. It would be a nice introduction so nonprofits can be a part of the process. Members can reach out to different groups they are familiar with. Brian said that we are trying to get more input and participation prior to making our funding decisions. These coalitions are already structured bodies, and it is not so much a conflict of interest because they have an expressed advocacy purpose. Members commented that if we do not open up to the broader community, we might make decisions that are less inclusive. Brian expressed his belief that we should seek input on the funding process and how to balance competing priorities.

Members shared that there is something to be said about relationship building. Sometimes people need a personal relationship to feel more comfortable, even if the end result remains the same. Members expressed a desire to focus on impact (i.e., how the City can get the greatest amount of impact from its funding). That way we could help organizations build capacity to meet performance benchmarks, rather than just funding them to survive. The City should be more prescriptive in how high-quality services are provided. Customer engagement and engagement of employees is critical to impact their participation in the process.

Brian discussed MOHCD's work on racial equity program evaluation. We could have MOHCD staff who are leading that work come and talk with the CCCD at an upcoming meeting. We can prep presentations on how our internal working groups are addressing members' feedback around program evaluation, capacity building and racial equity. Engagement helps people process information. We need to target and hear from organizations more, and validate our assumptions about what we think they need.

- CCCD members more actively representing the communities they live and work in.

Members discussed.

Members commented that it would be helpful to have a diverse CCCD that represents districts and communities across the city. We should have representation from every district.

Members expressed an interest in more structure to the Committee's work. Brian and Mike agreed that it is a goal of theirs, too, and they will continue to try to show a connection between Committee feedback and tangible actions taken by MOHCD.

Brian said he thought it would be useful if MOHCD's new Director, Eric Shaw, met with the Committee and shared his vision for the department. Members agreed. They would like to hear how Eric thinks the CCCD can be most helpful to the department.

6. Public Comment

- a. Hans How shared that the Committee was responsive to his comments about community outreach and engagement. His only question was around funding priorities for next year. If those are based on community needs and those meetings were from before the pandemic, will there be another opportunity for community input? We should make our decisions based on current and timely information. Hans thinks the Committee is heading in the right direction and asking the right questions.

7. Adjournment at 7:06 p.m.