

# City of Bellevue

## Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

### Meeting Minutes

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday, October 27, 2020 | Virtual Meeting |
| 6:00p.m.                  | Zoom            |

**Membership:**

|                   |                |                   |                 |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alaric Bien,      | Haruka Kojima, | Mohamed Bakr,     | Seema Bahl,     |
| Angela De La Hoz, | Jennifer Karl, | Nahyeli Mendivil, | Sterling Brown, |
| Anthony Austin,   | Karia Wong,    | Philip Peterson,  | Timea Soos      |
| Chris Lovings,    | Lisa Weber,    | Becca Cole,       |                 |
| Diane Li,         | Marguerite Ye, | Santiago Naranjo, |                 |
| Eloisa Tran,      | Marta Trilles, | Quiana Ross,      |                 |

**City Staff:** Yuriana Garcia Tellez, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator; Emily Chang, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Intern; Brad Miyake, City Manager; Nathan McCommon, The Deputy City Manager.

**Recording secretary:** *Phil Peterson*

**I. Call to Order:**

- A. Roll call of members: *Alaric called to order at 6:03p. Roll call was initiated at 6:03p*
- B. Adoption of the Agenda: *Chris moved, Anthony seconded, unanimously approved.*
- C. Adoption of the Minutes: *Quiana moved, Karia seconded, unanimously approved.*

**II. Opening Comments by Brad Miyake**

Brad Miyake joined to share a few words of encouragement and appreciation for the work accomplished by BDAN.

**III. Public Comment:** None

**IV. Debrief of Retreat by Yuriana Garcia**

Yuriana invited feedback, and there was no comment.

**V. Committee/workplan by Yuriana Garcia**

Jennifer spoke on behalf of the Culturally Responsive Government Committee and Becca took notes. They discussed a process they are exploring to develop an FAQ, and a revised submission process. Others included in the discussion were Angela, Lisa, Seema, and Timea.

Chris spoke on behalf of the Communication and Engagement Committee, reporting how they want to better understand how the city is communicating with residents. Their next step is to create goals. Others included in the discussion were Karia, Quiana, Sterling, and Marta.

Anthony spoke on behalf of the Emerging Needs Committee, reporting possible ideas that they may pursue, such as, civilian oversight for the police department, addressing mental health concerns, and firearm training. Yuriana shared the importance of including Brad in this process on a quarterly basis so that he can listen to issues that currently need to be addressed. Others included in the discussion were Diane, Haruka, Eloisa, Margie, Mohamed, Nahyeli, and Santiago.

#### **VI. Use of Force Policies, Focus Session by Michael Gennaco, OIR Group**

Nathan McCommon is the Deputy City Manager and introduced the importance of BDAN's feedback to inform the consultant's policy recommendation for the city. Michael Gennaco is part of the Office of Independent Review Group, which is an independent police oversight and review consultant group. They met tonight with BDAN to get their feedback regarding the city's use of force and to create better policies that protect the community. In addition, Julie Ruhlin and Perry Terrant joined Michael in facilitating this conversation.

Feedback included general comments, such as: 1) The general public is not educated enough on the police policies to effectively speak into a listening session, 2) There is a need for interpreters who are available for police to better communicate with those who struggle to speak in English, 3) There is a need for training to address racial profiling and bias (i.e. a screening process, cultural competency), 4) People of color need to be reassured that they will be safe in our community, and particularly in the schools with their School Resource Officers, 5) We need diversity on the police force to reflect the diversity in our city, and with the ability to speak in other languages, 6) Train police officers, especially for School Resource Officers, regarding situations with people who have disabilities, (i.e. de-escalation, intervention), 7) There is a need for police accountability through ideas, such as, the use of body cameras, and by creating a database that records the use of force, including any complaints made against someone, 8) There was a level of concern for defunding the police, 9) There was a request to include minority groups, who the police are serving, in determining the specific changes to policy, as well as, to report back what is done to demonstrate their voices were heard in the process, 10) Bellevue is doing a good job, and some things can be done better. There was a lot of appreciation shared for the time made to listen to BDAN members.

Yuriana shared how future comments can be submitted by emailing council-pledge@bellevuewa.gov. Julie Ruhlin shared that a report will be created based on their feedback, and it will be public information. The plan is to see it by the end of the year.

#### **VII. Nominations by Yuriana Garcia**

Every two-years nominations are made from October 27 to November 17. The ballot is open from November 17 to December 1. And an announcement is made in December. Yuriana will share information via email. Nominations are to be sent by email to Yuriana.

#### **VIII. Announcements/Future Agendas**

A comment was shared about childcare being available through Bellevue College. Yuriana will send out a follow-up email on this available resource.

#### **IX. Closing of Session: Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 17, 2020**