



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Committee to the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, 2000 14th Street NW
2nd Floor Community Room, Washington, DC 20009

Agenda:

1. **Call to order** – Initiated by Victoria Kirby-York, meeting called to order at 6:41pm.
2. **Roll Call** – Completed by Nicole Armstead. The following committee members were in attendance:

Sheila Alexander-Reid	Thomas Sanchez
David Perez	Consuella Lopez
Victoria Kirby-York	Julius Agers
Nicole Armstead-Williams	Bradley Lewis
Dr. Imani Woody	Michelle Parkerson
Jim Slattery	Ruth Eisenberg
Dwayne Bensing	Randy Downs
Letitia Gomez	
Reggie Greer	

Roll call also noted five public guests were in attendance:

3. **Review September** Meeting Minutes – Nicole Armstead reviewed the September 2017 Adv Comm meeting minutes, and noted amendments requested by committee members. Finalized September meeting minutes will be updated.

4. Reports

a. *Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs*

Report focused on the following:

(1.) Dep Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs has moved to another agency ; actively interviewing to fill open position;

(2.) Department of Corrections is hiring; the DOC continues to emphasize the need to improve LGBTQ inclusive care of inmates, especially transgender inmates. The goal is to improve accountability among staff and to become a model for the rest of the country (further discussion with LGBTQ Task Force). Additionally, DOC continues to offer monthly support groups for transgender inmates;

(3.) Pathways Project relaunched in December (formerly an employment hiring series — now is a employment readiness series);

(4.) Budget and engagement forums for the Mayor are coming in late Feb.

(5.) Black History Month Event on 02/28 at Public Trust, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

(6.) SYEP Youth Employment Program is seeking employers

b. *MPD LGBTQ Liaison Unit (Formerly GLLU) on **Public Safety** – Presented by Kelly Omera, Director of Strategic Change of MPD*

Presentation focused on the following:

There are ongoing issues and tensions between LGBTQ communities and MPD (e.g. No Justice No Pride, Transgender Day of Remembrance, unsolved murders of LGBTQ persons).

Transition of MPD after arrival of Chief Newsham: he requested that all special liaison teams be directly under his supervision, including GLLU — now called LGBTQ Liaison Unit. Intersectionality was observed between unique communities, particularly for people of color, deaf persons, religious minorities, and LGBTQ persons.

Observations of communities and existing tensions led to the following increased efforts: (1.) outreach to community, (2.) working with victims, and (3.) building the capacity of the department.

Now have a Crime Victims Specialist
More officers working to identify missing persons

Continued challenges: Hate crimes, nationally are increasing; however, LGBTQ hate crimes remain under-reported. Finalizing statistics must be from “reported” crimes to police, and police are encouraged to ask victims: Do you think this was a hate crime? MPD has developed a review team that meets monthly to review all potential hate crimes. They discuss issues such as: is it being handled appropriately? Are we asking the right questions? This is aimed to increase accountability and understanding of hate crimes and the larger issue of crime in DC. This further discussion about neighborhoods that experience peak hate crimes and the peak times that hate crimes occur (overnight).

Important to continue to fund hiring budget as well as incentives, in an effort to maintain higher capacity of qualified officers.

c. Questions and Answers

- ***Why do we not target the Johns, instead of sex workers?*** Answer: MPD used to have a Prostitution Unit, who no longer exists — this has reduced the “targeting” of sex workers. However, police also have a responsibility to respond to community complaints; the laws continue to criminalize sex work. MPD is working with Department of Behavioral Health to develop a pre-arrest aversion program (e.g. substance use, homelessness, mental health getting arrested for lower level offenses) — those detained could be assessed to locate diversion programs instead of arrest and conviction. Timeline later Spring 2018; this is not specifically for trans communities, but could be a part of subset community. Open to further discussion.

- ***How to balance protestors and police presence?*** This initiated conversation about disruptions during No Justice, No Pride; Transgender Day of Remembrance, and Creating Change; some — protesting groups target increased partnerships between MPD and community members. Protestors do not want police presence.

- ***What does security look like for different communities? How can we find what a middle ground looks like when there is police presence?*** Need for larger community dialogue.

- ***Does MPD ask about immigration status?*** MPD does not ask about immigration status

- REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Employees -Ciera and Stephanie, discussed MBSYEP (Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program). They encouraged hosts (employers) to apply (deadline: May 6th, 2018). Program provides assistance with employment, financial literacy,

development of resume, and understanding W-2 forms. Career Fair is April. Many participants identify as LGBTQ. Focus on wards 7-8. Six week program.

5. **Public Comment** (20 mins – 7:15-7:35pm)

- Dr. Graham: University of Maryland, discussed MOVEME (Motivation Openness Vision Exposure Mastery Engagement) — a group aimed to empower adults with financial literacy. Essential question proposed: How do you help people to navigate through the negative filters in an effort to enter the work force? What is the trauma that keeps you from moving forward? Pathways Project: (hard) resume part and the (soft) additional skills — you have to have both at the same time for employment. Three month program and by March/April the plan is for participants to join the work force/higher education. The focus is readiness, not guaranteed hire without working through barriers. Dr. Graham is working the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs on the Pathways Project.

- Ashley Smith: President of Capital Pride, discussed updates regarding recent meeting with No Justice No Pride protesters to discuss ongoing issues and current planning for this year's events. No Justice No Pride met with leadership team regarding MPD and corporate sponsorships; resulted in open dialogue as a productive first step. It is important to hear all voices, but remember that one voice does not have to entirely shift the shape of Capital Pride. There are opportunities to increase diversity and learn from the experiences of last year.

6. **Old business** – David M. Pérez, chair — NO OLD BUSINESS TO DISCUSS

7. **New business** (45 mins. 7:45-8:30pm)

- a. Discuss Fiscal Year 2018 Priorities for Advisory Committee
CONFIRMED MEETING DATES: MAY 1 AND AUGUST 7, 2018
PRIDE MARCH WITH THE MAYOR, SCHEDULED JUNE 9

Suggestions for Topic Discussions:

Suggest that FIRE EMS Kim McDaniel
Office on Aging

Dell McFadden - Neighborhood Engagement and Safety

DHCD - Department of Housing and Community Developer

DHD - Department of Housing Development

b. Announcements (15 mins. 8:15-8:30pm)

- Dr. Imani Woody announced: Sen Bob Casey event (see flyer)

- Thomas Sanchez: Trevor Project, larger push to make conversion therapy to ban conversion therapy

- Feb 18 at Town Afro-Latinx event

- March 21 Annual Women's History Event

- Dr. Woody received a SAGE award @ Creating Change

- Victoria provided an amazing speech at Creating Change

- Feb 25th Honoring Elders Events – Dr Woody and Dir. Reid will be receiving awards

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm