



## ALBANY CITY COUNCIL – MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

Albany, CA 94706

Monday, September 21, 2020

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A summary of Council comments is as follows: support for collecting data from Advisory Body applicants and members; if the purpose is to collect data only, then the Google form method would be advantageous; Council Members can communicate or meet with applicants, at which time they can observe demographic data; support for anonymously collecting demographic data and not providing the data to Council Members during the appointment process; a preference for self-identification only; someone must interpret and categorize self-identifications in order to report data; support for categories and self-identification; a preference for not collecting demographic data.

The Council directed staff to work with the City Attorney to work on the application to collect data through an anonymous process and to provide check boxes and free form blank lines for each data point.

### **11-2.** Request by the Social and Economic Justice Commission to increase Commission membership

Social & Economic Justice Commission recommendation:

Whereas, the Social and Economic Justice Commission has taken on additional work in response to the Council's charge to devise an equity action plan to address systemic racism in Albany, and

Whereas, the SEJC would benefit not only from additional members but particularly from members with a diverse range of experiences, and

Whereas, the SEJC particularly wishes to ensure that younger voices are represented in its discussions,

We ask Council to authorize an increase to the Social and Economic Justice Commission membership to include 2 at-large members with emphasis on appointing members that represent the diversity of the City and a student-age member.

Assistant City Manager Leduc presented the staff report. The SEJC consists of five members appointed by the City Council. Subcommittees are limited to two members, and SEJC members serve on multiple subcommittees. The SEJC requests an increase in the number of seats so that it can accomplish more work and have greater diversity. The SEJC recommends the membership include a student-age member.

SEJC Chair Downs noted the SEJC's increased workload due to its work on the Equity Action Plan. Greater diversity within the SEJC will benefit its work on the Equity Action Plan.

A summary of public comments is as follows: support for increasing the SEJC membership; encouragement for AUSD to appoint a member of the SEJC.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: a suggestion to allow the new Council to determine the number of members; a preference for AUSD to appoint two members.

### **MOTION:**

Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Council Member Nason, to increase the number of SEJC members with two additional Council at-large appointments effective January 2021.



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AYES: Council Members Maass and Nason, Mayor Pilch

NOES: Council Member Barnes, Vice Mayor McQuaid

Motion carried and so ordered.

By acclamation, the Council extended the meeting to 11:15 p.m.

### 12. NEW BUSINESS

#### 12-1. Recommendations from Working Group to Develop a Community Task Force on Policing

Staff recommendation: that the Council review the draft framework to develop a Community Task Force on Policing framework as recommended by the working group and provide direction to staff on next steps

City Manager Almaguer presented the staff report. The Working Group met several times and discussed the complexities of developing a task force regarding policing. The Working Group's recommendation is more formal than the Council is accustomed to reviewing because this is a new type of group. Council Members should review the recommendation carefully.

Mayor Pilch reported the Working Group had a lengthy discussion of the appropriate body to appoint members to the Task Force.

A summary of public comments is as follows: the consultants should address the Council's concerns; the SEJC Chair and Vice Chair advocated for the appointing body to include at least one member of the SEJC and the consultants; the application does not include the age group 25-65; a suggestion for the consultants to provide a presentation regarding the Task Force; the SEJC's work on policing and the Task Force have different goals, roles, and timeframes.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: concern regarding the number of Task Force members; there should be only one process for discussion of policing issues; a preference not to allow self-selection of members; a preference for a concrete charge and concrete timeline; concern about the application soliciting confidential information; support for the consultants' presence at the next discussion of the Task Force; the Council is responsible for creating the Task Force and directing its work, and the Council should appoint the members; the Task Force's work can be incorporated into the Equity Action Plan.

City Manager Almaguer advised that the City Attorney will review the documents and revise as needed. Having only one group working on policing issues would benefit staff by providing consistency and removing the possibility of contradictory information. Staff will discuss the questions about the application with the City Attorney and return the item to the Council at a future meeting.

#### 12-2. Threatened Litigation under the California Voting Rights Act

Staff recommendation: that the Council receive and file this report