CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: September 5, 2023

Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Racial Inclusivity & Social Equity Commission Proposed Work Plan

REPORT BY: Anne Hsu, City Clerk

SUMMARY

This report introduces the work plan as developed by the newly established Racial Inclusivity & Social Equity (RISE) Commission. The work plan outlines the areas that the Commission will focus on during their term.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council receive a presentation regarding the work plan developed by the Racial Inclusivity & Social Equity Commission and provide any comments or direction regarding the proposed work plan.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Council established the RISE Commission by Resolution No. 2023-17 on March 20, 2023. The charge of the RISE Commission as defined in the Resolution is to:

- Advise the City Council on the citywide priorities of equity, diversity, accountability and inclusivity to address the broad spectrum of intersectional issues across race and social equity within the City;
- Seek to develop positive relations through the Commission's regular monthly meetings as a space to facilitate greater respect and understanding between people, offering opportunities for cultural exchange and education, and promote tolerance and mutual respect between all members of the community; and
- Serve as the Social & Economic Justice Commission for purposes of meeting the requirements of the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax in making recommendations to the City Council regarding the use of tax proceeds.

At its June 5, 2023 and July 5, 2023 meetings, the RISE Commission worked to develop the attached workplan for presentation to the Council.

SOCIAL EQUITY & INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City's RISE Commission purpose and workplan are intended to directly support social equity and inclusivity within the city.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

Attachments

1. Racial Inclusivity & Social Equity Commission Work Plan

CITY OF ALBANY RACIAL INCLUSIVITY & SOCIAL EQUITY COMMISSION WORKPLAN



Purpose of the Racial Inclusivity & Social Equity (RISE) Commission

The charge of this Commission is to advise the City Council on the citywide priorities of equity, diversity, accountability and inclusivity to address the broad spectrum of intersectional issues across race and social equity within the City of Albany. The RISE Commission shall also seek to develop positive relations through the Commission's regular monthly meetings as a space to facilitate greater respect and understanding between people, offering opportunities for cultural exchange and education, and promote tolerance and mutual respect between all members of the community.

Work Plan Items

- Participate in forthcoming citywide racial equity survey process and provide recommendations to the City Council regarding insight identified in the final report for the racial equity survey.
- Provide recommendations in coordination with other Advisory Bodies towards the implementation of the City's Housing Element, with particular focus on programs to help facilitate increased housing availability for all members of the community, and to work with the City's Community Development Dept on housing equity issues.
- Provide an annual recommendation to the Council on programs or services to be provided with sugar-sweetened beverage tax revenue.
- Provide a draft recommendation of a City Equity Statement.
- Explore the viability and possible benefit of the creation of a City Racial Equity Office and/or a City staff Racial Equity Officer.
- Research options for a read-along program for community members of all ages to participate.