



## City of Seattle

Community Involvement Commission

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION (CIC)

September 19, 2022

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Webex Meeting & Phinney Neighborhood Association

**Commissioners present:** Ahoua Koné (she/her), Robert Radford, Saba Rahman (she/her), Martha Lucas (she/her), Marcus White, Julia Jannon-Shields (she/her)

**Commissioners not in attendance:** Bill Southern (he/him)

**City of Seattle Staff present:** Alvin Edwards (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, he/him), Laura Jenkins (Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, she/her), Councilmember Tammy Morales (District 2)

***(Transcriber's Note: The notes shown below are summaries of statements provided. They are not transcriptions and have been shortened and edited to include the major points raised. Full comments are retained in the files in video recording and available upon request.)***

#### Community Comments and vote on 7/18 & 8/15 Meeting Minutes

Commissioners voted to approve the Community Involvement Commission's 7/18/22 and 8/15/22 meeting minutes.

#### Conversation with Councilmember Tammy Morales

Questions from the Commission:

- What are your major priorities during your service on the City Council?
  - Councilmember Morales identified three key priorities: pass the budget to oversee departments' policy development, expand advocacy for the people of Seattle & district residents, and building healthy neighborhoods (e.g. affordable housing, land use policy, economic accessibility, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, etc.).
  - Mission is to democratize access to power and resources.
- What areas of the City's work do you see a gap in community expertise being integrated into decision-making?
  - Focus more on the cities climate action plan and meeting the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
    - Implementing resilience hubs focused on community center decarbonization and installing solar powered generator, air conditioners and other resources that address economic safety events urgencies.
    - Community (neighborhood) safety navigation improvements to improve community mobility & security in Seattle.
- What do you think are the biggest barriers to the City having more meaningful engagement across departments? Are there examples of when things have gone wrong that you think departments have learned from?
  - High turnover of consistent City leadership created barriers towards leadership transparency between communities and City departments.



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- Stability within the executive branch, Mayor's office continuing to focus and complete the missions/goals initiatives that address community safety without the revamping of budget restrictions & department project focuses changings.
- Public dollars were to be spent; including what came out of those conversations in 2020. The City leaders really need to make sure that we are changing the culture of the way the City operates so that we're building generational wealth in Black and Brown communities. Prioritizing investment in communities that have been left way behind so that we're cleaning up our streets and our investing in infrastructure.
- What are your hopes for this commission?
  - CIC mission is to advise City Council, the mayor on effective ways to engage with the city.
  - The commission could really have an impact on how communities are served by helping them understand City funding & budget processes.
  - The City funding/budget allocating processes starts in January, if community/stakeholders are going to have a budget they must ask for city official assistance between January until October. Councilmember Morales' office needs to have it by October 1. If the city hasn't heard from community/stakeholder by then it's too late.
- Which neighborhood do you spend the most time on (meetings, community interactions, etc.) in your district?
  - Little Saigon, Rainer Beach & Mount Baker communities regarding homelessness, public safety issues, and housing assistance. Addressing the light rail installations that are impacting neighborhoods.
- Are there policies or types of projects where community engagement is required across the city (across departments)?
  - Pretty much department by department. In beginning of Comprehensive Plan update.
  - Language access is a huge challenge. Offering technical information in a digestible way is a huge challenge.
  - Supporting planning commission.
- You said one of your priorities is healthy neighborhoods. Do you feel like you're making progress in that priority (in meeting the needs to address homelessness)?
  - Very frustrated about where we are with this. Need more investment from the state for more mental health services, behavioral health services, and avenues for permanent housing. Also need more affordable housing. Feels like there is too much focus on the criminal side of things.

#### Full City Council Meeting Attendance

- Council meeting summary from Commissioner Robert Radford
  - Council meeting highlighted Houston, Texas mission towards addressing homelessness.
    - Official site was sent to Laura Jenkins to send out to the team to review.
- Who will attend a September City Council meeting?
  - Saba Rahman, Alvin Edwards, Marc White will attend.
  - DON will create SharePoint site for all council meeting documents to be filled.
    - CIC will develop an annual attendee spreadsheet to monitor attendance coverage.



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#### Staff liaison updates

- Michael Bailey, Human Services Deputy Director, attended the commission retreat & was interested in attending future CIC meetings.
  - Invitation proposal was sent to Deputy Director Bailey to attend the October CIC meeting.
  - Alvin sent out Deputy Director Bailey's responses to the CIC recommended questions regarding more information about the Human Services Department.
- Recruitment & Appointment Updates
  - YMCA Engagement position status – Fiona Murray is the candidate who's currently waiting on the appointment process for the Get Engaged position. That's the 18-29 year old youth position through the YMCA.
    - She may attend future CIC meetings.
  - Naishin Fu was recommended by Councilmember Dan Strauss, high interest in joining CIC.
- Created a commission template style, it's going to start out as a letter to Chrissy. Thank her for her time. We met with the commission chairs and Laura, and I created a template that the commission chairs approved.
  - Waiting for CIC chairs signature then will send out.
- The reason why we still do the in-person meeting is it's a requirement of the Open Public Meetings Act. That's why we still do the, the in-person component every month. Since there was a COVID emergency order that let us all meet virtually, that's why we were just meeting virtually for a while.
  - The staff liaisons asked if the commissioners are okay with the in-person meeting component being at City Hall. Commissioners said yes and also want to explore what it would look like to have quarterly meetings out in community.
- Laura will send a recent email that came through from Councilmember Morales' listserv where it kind of talks through how to be involved in the budget process as a community member. She gives some advice around it.

#### Continue conversation about part of commission goal related to community

This conversation will be revisited at a future meeting.

#### Clarification Question

Commissioner Radford asked about if it is the commission's place to discuss the City funding of the Royal Esquire Club with Equitable Development Initiative Funding. Although the funding decision was made by the Office of Planning & Community Development, community perceived that the Mayor, who previously had connections with the organization, was involved in the funding decision. There was some interest in discussing it at a future meeting. Commissioner Ahoua Koné suggested that the commission ask the Mayor about it the next time he joins a commission meeting.

#### Community Comment



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- Cindi Barker from Seattle Emergency Communication Hubs attended the meeting with community concerns of proposed City projects that were recommended to community. Advising that these projects incorporate inclusive changes focused on neighborhoods, matching fund grants and improving community engagement (e.g. translation, limited ADA accessibility, etc.)
  - Commissioner Marcus White requested that CIC has a track record (spreadsheet) of community concerns to address & track project statuses.

The meeting was adjourned.