

## Recap of the Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting November 2, 2016

November 2, 2016 Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Ortiz. Members present: Chair Ortiz, Vice-Chair Howell, Gamal Gasser, Roxanne Bartley, Letitia Haynes, Terry Kemple, Raed Khawaja, Kamal Patel, Virgil Perry, Patti Sanchez, Satish Sharma, Jennifer Shiver, Lynnette Stine, James Tokley, Leon Herndon, and Robert Chen. Members absent: Kate Shaw, Lisa Demmi, Tonni Bacoat-Jones and Francis Joseph. A quorum was present. Staff present: Tony Morejon from the Office of Community Affairs, Carmen LoBue from the Office of Community Affairs, Brandon Wagner of the Office of Legislative Affairs and Zuleyka Carbajal from the Equal Opportunity Administrator's Office.

**Public Comment:** Mr. David McCallister commented that at last meeting he spoke about narrowly focused community forums. He also spoke about committing the County two points of view that don't represent everyone, an issue that might have been bypassed for a little while. He doesn't feel that the DAC should be committing the support of the BOCC of particular months, days, and groups, only if it benefits everyone. He spoke regarding the controversy at Veteran's Park.

### **Old Business:**

**Approval of October 5, 2016 Meeting Recap:** Vice-Chair Howell made a motion to approve the Meeting Recap of October 5, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tokley. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

**Subcommittee Community Issues Proposal Report:** Mr. Kemple went over what the Subcommittee had discussed and a handout was passed out. The Subcommittee agreed that because of their connectivity to the different populations of Hillsborough County, one of the more important things the DAC could do is to provide a means to identify any potential flashpoints in the County. The DAC would set something up for citizens of Hillsborough County who have problems in their communities or see problems in other communities, to take steps to alleviate those problems. Mr. Kemple commented on what Mr. Coleman advised, which was to make sure that anything that is brought to the BOCC is clearly a suggestion. The Subcommittee decided that the way to present it to the BOCC was as a means to further develop the ability of the DAC, to have a positive influence on the diverse communities. The group that was decided upon is to be called, the Leadership Dialogue Panel (LDP) made up of: BOCC or 3 representatives, Mayor, or 3 representatives, Sheriff and Police Chief, or three representatives, other government officials, and an attorney. The purpose to have a panel of government officials to show people of the community that the government cares. The group would meet once or twice a year, or if anything urgent came up. Mr. Kemple advised to cross off the whole red part of the handout. The decision would be made whether to present it to the BOCC.

Ms. Bartley inquired on what advice staff had given. Mr. Gasser commented that that item had actually come up, the conclusion was that there was not going to be overlapping with any emergency services. Mr. Gasser stated that the LDP would be set up to solve any problems that might come up, not existing problems, and what steps would be taken if there was an issue.

Vice-Chair Howell stated that the BOCC had already created the DAC and there doesn't need to be a separate group. The BOCC is relying on the DAC for the group to advise them. Ms. Bartley stated that there really shouldn't be redundancy. Mr. Kemple would follow-up with staff to see if there wasn't already a group like this set up.

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Chairman Ortiz went over what was said regarding the role of the LDP.

Ms. Shiver question who would determine if there is an emergency. Mr. Kemple stated that that would be part of the DAC's function.

Chairman Ortiz read the DAC's mission and wanted for everyone to think about how everything discussed relates to the mission. He commented that there should be some sort of rubric or mechanism that would gage the importance of an issue and wants to make sure that it all aligns with the mission.

Mr. Kemple stated that Mr. Coleman advised that the DAC needs to be careful on how it is presented to the BOCC.

Chairman Ortiz stated that the DAC should first see if they can de-escalate any situations before it would go to the LDP or the BOCC. Mr. Kemple stated that he thought the rubric would be good to see how it would be moved forward.

Mr. Chen stated that he feels that the DAC should handle the whole thing, that there should not be an LDP. Mr. Kemple commented that as a DAC, there is no authority to resolve issues, there is a responsibility to address issues and turn them over to somebody, and that the LDP would be known to the community as the group that cared about those issues. Mr. Perry stated that listening to the Mission, it shows how the DAC needs to tend to issues that may arise, that people should know that the DAC is here to bring those issues to. Chairman Ortiz noted that the Mission states the needs and ideas of the community and communicated to government, it should look different than residents going to the BOCC.

Chairman Ortiz recommends that the Subcommittee go back and start looking at some of the questions that were raised, and at next meeting, come back and present to the Council some of the thoughts that came out of that process.

### **New Business:**

**BOCC Meeting November 2 Discussion, Quarterly Report:** Chairman Ortiz discussed with the members the presentation he did at the BOCC meeting. He shared with the BOCC about the new members, the orientation process, and also expanding the DAC. Chairman Ortiz stated that there was some push-back and one of the questions they raised was at what point in time does the expansion stop. The BOCC is concerned about meeting quorum and that there is also still two vacancies. Chairman Ortiz stated that he advised them that the DAC would discuss it during the Strategic Planning. Mr. Kemple asked whether it would be discussed as New Business at next meeting, or during the present meeting. Chairman Ortiz stated that it would be at next meeting.

**Strategic Plan Discussion:** Chairman Ortiz went over the 2014-2015 Strategic Plan with the group. The Strategic Plan goes through the Executive Summary, the Mission, representation of the DAC members, Needs Analysis, List of Strengths, Challenges and Options, and the Strategic Implementation Areas. There are seven Strategic Implementation areas.

Chairman Ortiz noted that during the first twelve months of the DAC, the first three categories were being focused on: #1 building awareness within the community, educating the community about history and challenges of each, #2 youth concerns/violence, #3 being informed of the many activities that members are engaged in across the County. #4 was making the community aware of the DAC and

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available as a resource, #5 keeping the DAC members engaged when the focus is not specific to their area, #6 communication with hard to reach community members, and #7 finances to execute.

Chairman Ortiz asked the members to look at the Strategic Implementation areas and if it still make sense to the group moving forward. Chairman Ortiz encouraged that as the Strategic Plan is being adjusted, to think past 2016, think 2017 to end of that year. There was discussion regarding the different areas of the Strategic Plan and adjusting each section to the current and future needs.

Chairman Ortiz read out the list of suggestions on how the DAC will ensure that the Strategic Plan moving forward will meet each of the areas: #1 marketing subcommittee, annual Interact Hillsborough, community outreach committee that focuses on community attendance at DAC events and other events DAC is attending, schools and places of worship. #2 youth/police interactions (training or workshops), cultural dialogues, DAC clubs, abstinence program. #3 leveraging DAC engagement, that is being done at the end of every meeting, but also including hot button issues as well. #4 blog, talk shows, social media, all of those lumped up into one, marketing campaigning, annual Interact Hillsborough event, and LDP. #5 already existing and will remain. #6 LDP, marketing. #7 already existing.

Ms. Bartley advised that the DAC should look into starting to plan the next Interact Hillsborough event, last event was on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Will be placed on New Business for December's meeting.

### **Announcements & Council Member Reports**

Mr. Perry announced to the group the Veteran's Day event, Operation Reveille located at Terminal 6. Mr. Wagner commented that this is a County event and information will be e-mailed to the group.

Ms. Stine announced the Green Dot Violence Prevention Awareness Training, put on by the Crisis Center the information is on their Facebook Page, the first training is next month.

Mr. Tokley reminded everyone to make certain that everyone that is eligible to vote, goes out and votes. He also mentioned the Ride Along event of the HCSO. The event is in December.

Mr. Chen announced that December 7<sup>th</sup> thru December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of North America will be in Tampa. Volunteers are needed to do several functions, like, packing up gifts for them, welcoming at airport, tour guides. He will send out a volunteer list. There is a position for Far East Asia open on the DAC. Mr. Wagner stated that advertising could begin now.

Mr. Sharma announced that the Indian Community of Tampa will have a celebration on January 29<sup>th</sup> to celebrate India becoming a public country in 1950 on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gasser announced an Arab festival on the weekend and he will be e-mailing out a flyer.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.