

MINUTES
City of Hyattsville, Race & Equity Task Force Committee
Date: October 25, 2022
Time: 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

PRESENT

Task Force Members:

- Co-Chair Alicia Sanchez Gill Freemyn
- Co-Chair Jennifer Gafford
- Record Keeper Vice Secretary Jocelyn Medallo
- Member Rodrigo Blanco

Council:

- Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Staff:

- Staff Liaison Jan Guszynski
- Staff Liaison and Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre

Guests:

- Community Services Department, Age-Friendly Program Lead, Marci Lefevre
- Chuck Perry
- David Marshall (Marshall)

****Meeting called to order at 7:05PM by Co-Chair Sanchez Gill Freemyn****

Note: Meetings no longer recorded, as previously done.

Welcome & Call to Order- 7:05 pm – Co-Chair Gafford

7:05 pm - 7:06 pm – Roll Call – Co-Chair Gafford

7:07 pm – 7:08 pm – Acknowledgement of Meeting Guests – Liaison Louimarre

7:08 pm – 7:10 pm – Approved Minutes from August 2022 Meeting – Co-Chair Sanchez Gill

Freemyn

- Member Blanco moved to approve; Co-Chair Gafford seconds; all in favor

7:10 pm - 7:15 pm – Transfer of Committee Liaison Role – Jan Guszynski

- Thanks to Liaison Guszynski, who has served as a staff resource for the last 3 years.

7:16 pm - 8:03 pm – Age Friendly Work Group Presentation – Community Services

Department, Age-Friendly Program Lead, Marci Lefevre

- Nearly 9.9% (1,806) of the City's population is 65 years of age or older, 42% of whom have at least one disability. Hyattsville was the first city in Maryland to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.
- Age-Friendly Program Presentation to the RETF ([link to full presentation](#))
 - Highlights City Age-Friendly Action Plan
 - Details four priority areas: (1) housing (e.g., affordable and accessible housing; (2) home and community-based services; (3) health and safety; and (4) communication and outreach (43% of our population speak a language other than English at home, providing opportunities for engagement)
 - Age-Friendly Work Group (Background and Function)
 - Available Programs and Services
 - Mission is to build and support community by striving to meet the needs of residents and providing programs, events, and celebrations that bring people together. Hyattsville offers many services and programs for seniors and people with disabilities.
 - To learn more about available programs and services, email seniors@hyattsville.org or call (301) 985-5000 to be added to the mailing list.
 - COVID-19 Response: Vulnerable Populations Initiative
 - The pandemic underscored the necessity of having a reliable and effective way to identify and assist at-risk and vulnerable populations.
 - Launched in 2020 and comprised of the following components:
 - Mapping of senior, vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations;
 - Field senior community needs survey (implemented in January - February 2021, involving 145 resident respondents); and
 - Develop energy assistance voluntary registry
- Question & Answer

- Co-Chair Sanchez Gill Freemyn: What did you see around disproportionate vulnerabilities across people of color and/or households where English is not the primary language?
- Age-Friendly Program Lead, Marci Lefevre: We see great need among people of color. Part of our work is to look at how do we map these areas and create strategies for working with community members and organizations to go more deeply into communities and to learn how we further engage. This survey was a baseline.

8:03 pm - 8:15 pm –Acknowledgement of Daniel Vallejos-Avila’s Resignation and

Redistribution of Assignments – Co-Chair Sanchez Gill Freemyn

- Member Vallejos-Avila has resigned. The RETF thanks him for his contributions.
- Review of assignments:
 - Member Vallejos-Avila had already completed the Housing portion. Co-Chair Freemyn has volunteered to support final edits on Housing.
 - Secretary Medallo confirms assignment of the Transportation section, which was formerly completed by former Chair Clarke.
 - Next topic is Community Policing.
 - Next meeting will discuss timeline for presenting to City Council.

8:16 pm - 8:23 pm – Equity Officer Updates – Liaison Louimarre

- Mayor and Council’s October and November Proclamations
 - Recognizing Indigenous People’s Day
 - Recognizing Native American Heritage Month
 - Recognizing National Employment Disability Awareness Month and Veteran’s Day
- Hyattsville Sustainability Plan Updates
- 2022 Redistricting Committee
- HVL Representation at 2022 Mid-Atlantic ADA Conference
- 10/25 HVL CED Business Roundtable
- HWRC is seeking input and collaboration on topics for their equity speaker series
- Upcoming Learning Opportunities
 - November 9 – November 10 – Small business anti-displacement network conference
 - Social Impact Data Commons (resources to inform equitable local and regional growth)

8:23 pm - 8:31 pm – RETF Participation in Native American Heritage Month Panel

Discussion – Liaison Louimarre

- November 18th: Panel discussion in celebration of Native American and Indigenous Heritage Month
- Member Blanco moves proposal to have RETF to sponsor the event; Secretary Medallo seconds; all in favor.

8:31 pm – 8:42 pm – Open Discussion/Community Comments – Co-Chair Sanchez Gill

Freemyn

- Marshall (*written comments read out by Co-Chair Sanchez Gill Freemyn*): This Age-Friendly work is not sufficient for what is needed in the City. It is his experience that City would rather force older home owners out of their homes. With prices being what they are and taxes being high, there is very little that is affordable in our community.
- Chuck Perry: Concerns over taxes and data transparency – Has anyone put together a machine learning model to look at the data to see which way it is going, and can we validate previous statements on data? Did they demographically disaggregate the salary? Is the City invested in removing economic disparity?
- Co-Chair Sanchez Gill Freemyn: With guests' consent, the RETF can forward the concerns, feedback, and the efficacy of the data to Marci Lefevre.
- Liaison Guszynski: Have you reached out to Jim Chandler from Economic Development about these questions and if not, can we share that feedback to Marci LeFevre and Jim Chandler? RETF committee can check in with City Clerk.

8:42 pm – 8:42 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-Chair Gafford

- Member Blanco moves; Co-Chair Gafford seconds