



# Ad Hoc Committee: Addressing Homelessness Among Black San Diegans

May 2021 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
<b>Date:</b> 5/12/21	<b>Location:</b> Via Zoom Video Conference
<b>Time:</b> 12:30 – 2 PM	
<b>Members Present:</b> , Bobby Brown, Curtis Howard, Roland Slade, Ben Mendoza, , , David Baker, Sean Elo- Rivera, Bernie Miles, James Carter, Hannan Scraper, Sean Spear, Omar Passons	
<b>Members Absent:</b> Brett Wiese, Jo Barret, Adrian Donovan Scott, Christina Griffin, Veronica Loving, Amanda Nelson, Celese Turner, Tracey Wilson	<b>Note Taker:</b> Zoe Ridgway
<b>Staff Present:</b> Tamera Kohler, Kris Kuntz, Zoe Ridgway	
<b>Committee Facilitators:</b> Present: Darlene Matthews, Michele Williams	

Agenda Items:		
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Committee Chairs</b>
2	<b>Welcome Michelle and Darlene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tamera and Kris heard loud and clear that the committee wanted outside help and reached out to Michelle and Darlene who are experts in the homelessness sector</li> <li>● Strong facilitation for this work is important because of how important the work is</li> <li>● Went straight to HUD to ask for funding to have Michelle and Darlene join us for a 2 year commitment to change lens and framework and see a successful outcome</li> </ul>	<b>Tamera/ Kris</b>
Discussion Items:		
A	<b>Report out from Work Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● N/A</li> </ul>	
B	<b>Open discussion on committee direction and next steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Focus of Darlene and Michelle’s first presentation is to get to know each other, lay foundation for change, identify immediate opportunities for impact, long term objectives and next steps</li> <li>● Discuss where community thinks they are on the equity cycle currently and where the focus should be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Committee does not think that awake woke or work fits where we are as a community, everyone knows a change needs to be made but the work has not really begun, organizations are not accountable</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Michelle/Darlene</b>



- Suggest that “shook” be added as a fourth category to describe where the community is
- Depending on what piece of SD county you are looking at, some organizations are evolving their culture while some are not, but the appetite for change is out there
- Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera said that as a city we are at awake with some folks trying to pull towards woke but not there yet in terms of work
- This committee is the first time all this work has been pulled together, we need to focus on how to facilitate this cross-agency work and leverage one another
- RTFH occupies a special place, to be able to speak truth to the community, we need to utilize this voice and help the CoC speak more broadly about the systematic barriers harming black people in our community, this is the opportunity to speak up
- We have to engage in short term and long-term strategies to center racial equity in our response to homelessness
  - Bolster our system to ensure everyone can get to the outcome we desire, might have to add additional support to make sure everyone can get to that
- Immediate Opportunities for Impact
  - Darlene invites the committee to pushback if anything they are suggesting is not a right fit for our community
  - One week ago, the federal government through the American Rescue Plan, issued a notice for emergency housing vouchers
  - \$5 billion = 70,000 vouchers, SD housing commission: 470, county of SD: 259, City of Oceanside: 42, City of National City: 31, awarded to PHA’s with required CoC partnership, vouchers can only be given through referrals
  - These remove barriers that have previously limited the ability of people experiencing homelessness from accessing permanent housing, HUD is allowing for most forms of criminalization to not be a barrier for entry in to these vouchers
  - Vouchers have immediate portability once you have been issued a voucher
  - Vouchers apply to households; one voucher does not equate one individual but rather a household
- Impact Now for Lasting Change
  - Think that a good way the committee can make a real difference is by providing influence and guidance
  - Making a thoughtful impact can be in the form of policy, putting parameters around the strategy to tackle systemic racism that articulate the community’s plan in a simple and easy to understand way that can be given to the RTFH
  - Along with policy statements, concrete procedures that indicate how the policy will be carried out in concrete action steps are suggested
  - Provided sample EHV policy statements to brainstorm and get ideas flowing from committee
  - Group needs to consider how to get the word out about these vouchers
  - It is budget season right now so it is a pivotable time for this group to make policy and procedural recommendations to local housing authorities
  - Opportunity is NOW
  - Sample EHV procedures, pair data with action, representation in decision making, and barrier busting



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**Regional Task Force  
on the Homeless**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera as a member of the housing authority would quickly take recommendations made by this group to the housing commission and recommend they be followed to a tee and champion for the recommendations as a voting member</li><li>○ Identified 2 groups that are necessary in carrying out this project, one that focuses in reviewing and refining action items, developing lens, reviewing agendas, and exploring short- and long-term goals. While the other would review and refine policy and procedure on the EHV's and present back to committee</li><li>○ Curtis, David, Sean Spear and Pastor Slade offer to partake in 'task group 1'</li><li>● <b>Action Item:</b> Doodle poll to be made by Zoe inquiring a meeting time for May 26<sup>th</sup> for 'task group 2'</li></ul>
C	<p>Committee member updates and closing <span style="float: right;"><b>Sean Elo-Rivera</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● It is budget season, the voices of the members of this group are incredibly important, incredible opportunity to influence the process</li><li>● If there is a way to participate as a citizen not under the hat you wear, Ben and the rest of Sean's team can help facilitate that</li></ul>
<b>Next Meeting: Date:</b> June 9, 2021 <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><b>Time:</b> 12:30pm</span> <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><b>Location:</b> Zoom</span>	