



SANDY SPRINGS

GEORGIA

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Meeting Agenda

6:00 PM

The May 11, 2021 Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting will be held in person in the Barfield Conference Room at Sandy Springs City Hall (1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30328).
The meeting will also be live streamed.

Live-stream:	Public Meeting Portal (CivicClerk): https://sandyspringsga.civicclerk.com/web/home.aspx Zoom Webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89394223679
Teleconference:	Dial Options (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 312 626 6799• 1 646 558 8656• 1 301 715 8592• 1 346 248 7799• 1 669 900 9128• 1 253 215 8782
	Webinar ID: 893 9422 3679

I Call to Order - James E. Bostic, Jr., Chair

II Prayer - Rev. Bill Murray, Rector, Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

III Roll Call

IV Approval of Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2021 Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting

V New Business

DIT2021-011 Updates from the Task Force Chairperson
(Presented by James E. Bostic, Jr., Chair)

DIT2021-012 Discuss Recreation Subcommittee Report
(Presented by Clarissa Sparks, Subcommittee Chair)

DIT2021-013 Discuss Housing and Transportation Subcommittee Report and Recommendations to the Task Force
(Presented by Olivia Rocamora, Subcommittee Chair)

DIT2021-014 Open Discussion

VI Closing Comments - James E. Bostic, Jr., Chair

VII Prayer - Rabbi Joshua Heller, Congregation B'nai Torah

VIII Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in a public meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or facilities should contact the City Clerk at 770-730-5600 promptly for assistance. The City will make reasonable accommodations for those persons.



Sandy Springs Diversity and Inclusion Task Force:
Housing Subcommittee Presentation of Recommendations

SET 1 RECOMMENDATIONS:

For immediate consideration and implementation

- **Present Tony Ruth’s “[Addressing Inbalance](#)” Cartoon Series to City Council** to frame the role and work of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

- **Strengthen Communication between the City and Residents of Color**
 - “[Sandy Springs seeks more minority input on city projects](#)” is one documented example of the need to establish better input. Through extensive interviewing and research, the Task Force believes the breakdown in communication lies in two areas:
 - Unequal Access to Publications of Record (*Northside Neighbor* and *Sandy Springs Reporter*)- The vast majority of residents of color are renters, and they are not given access to physical publications of record. In contrast, homeowners (who make up only 48% of residents) receive physical copies on their driveway and in their mailbox.
 - Keith Pepper, publisher of the *Sandy Springs Reporter*, has already [expressed support](#) for an expanded distribution of the SSR.
 - Providing racks of newspapers in leasing offices and other complex common areas are an immediate first step to begin to bridge the inequality gap. The second step would be to expand the distribution to renter mailboxes.
 - Limited Translation Services- 15% of the Sandy Springs population is Spanish-speaking, and there are currently no consistent translation services to encourage participation in city plans.
 - Hire one city person who provides Spanish copies/translations of all city documents and final reports through a city-owned website and within 24 hours of a meeting/assessment.
 - Invest in [Wordly](#) or similar technology to provide on-demand translation services of live meetings.

- **Invest in Expertise on Housing**
 - Reinstate Phase 2 of the Housing Needs Assessment proposed in December 2020 but suspended by City Council in January 2021. This assessment will provide research-based recommendations of what other cities have done to tackle similarly complex housing obstacles. As stated above, a Spanish copy of this assessment should be available through a city website offering translation services.

 - Hire one City Person who forms part of staff that approves/rejects development proposals and who oversees all redevelopment through a racial equity lens. Redevelopment includes trails, parks, commercial properties and residential housing, which all influence maintaining housing affordability for working families.

- **Provide More Initial Transparency of Residents Impacted by Redevelopment.** All housing development proposals considered by City Council and/or Staff should include a presentation of and public access to data regarding the sites impacted: location of the site, number of units impacted, and number of families making less than \$50K who are/are not able to continue living in the new development.

SET 2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

For consideration and implementation in the next fiscal year

- **Provide Incentives to Developers who Support Housing Affordability when Renovating Old Apartment Complexes or Engaging in New Construction.**
 - Examples of incentives include
 - Lowering tax rates to developers
 - Giving height allowances to developers to allow them to build higher, creating more density to increase their profits
 - The city first purchasing, developing, and incurring the cost of the infrastructure before it sells the property to a developer
 - In exchange for incentives, developers must
 - Provide at least 25% of units designated for housing affordability for renters earning \$50K. Prices would be guaranteed for ten years. In the case of the city first purchasing property, this number should be increased to 30% of units designated for housing affordability.
 - Provide 3 BR units to ensure larger families are included in redevelopment plans and not just individuals and small families.
 - Provide a right of first return for residents displaced due to demolition.

The Phase 2 Housing Study, when reinstated, will provide additional options for how other cities are partnering with developers in the goal of creating housing affordability.

- **Change Zoning to Allow for More Housing Creativity for New Construction of Non-traditional Housing Concepts.**
 - Allow zoning for single family residents to build accessory dwellings on their property such as garage apartments or terrace level apartments.
 - Allow zoning for multi-family housing on the boundaries of single family neighborhoods.
 - Allow zoning for multi-family housing throughout the city, not just on the north end.
 - Make inclusionary zoning a city-wide ordinance, ensuring that all new construction going forward includes housing affordability for residents earning \$50K.
 - In August 2017, City Council voted to exclude this proposal from the city's 10-year Comprehensive plan.

JEB
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5/11/21