

1 **Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.,**
2 **James “Jim” E. Bostic, Jr., Chair, presiding.**
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4 **I. Call to Order**
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6 **Chair Jim Bostic** called the meeting to order at **6:03 p.m.**
7

8 **II. Prayer**
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10 **III. Roll Call**
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12 **Members present:** Chair Jim Bostic, Member Raquel González, Member Joshua Heller (arrived at 6:06
13 p.m.), Member Nicole Morris, Member Jose Osorio, Member Olivia Rocamora and Member Clarissa
14 Sparks
15

16 **Members absent:** Bill Murray, Sal Ortega
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18 **IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
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20 **DIT2021-019** June 8, 2021 Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting
21

22 **Motion and vote:** Member Olivia Rocamora made a motion, seconded by Member Jose Osorio, to approve
23 the June 8, 2021 Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
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25 **V. New Business**
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27 **DIT2021-020** Updates from the Task Force Chairperson
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29 **Chair Jim Bostic** stated at a June 2021 City Council Work Session, the Council discussed compensation
30 and benefits for members of the city council and the mayor. Though I was asked to comment on the
31 discussion, this was a not charge that was given to the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. I did write a
32 letter to Council Member Andy Bauman, and did share that I believe that serving on the City Council is a
33 public service.
34

35 **Olivia Rocamora, Housing Subcommittee Chair** stated the Council Member’s argument for
36 compensation was related to bringing more diversity to leadership. The idea is expanding benefits and pay
37 would attract all kinds of diverse backgrounds, including economic diversity, so that economic need would
38 not keep someone from running for city council.
39

40 **Chair Bostic** stated during the summer, Fulton Council Schools hosted summer school with very good
41 attendance. School has started for the fall session.
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43 **Member Jose Osorio** reported Lake Forest Elementary School hosted summer school, which also included
44 students from Heard’s Ferry Elementary School and High Point Elementary School. There were two sessions
45 and each session ran for 20 instructional days. 250 students participated in the first session and 125 students
46 in the second sessions. There were 12 – 15 students per teacher, which kept classes small and ensured
47 students received needed one-on-one time with the instructors. For the new school year, Fulton County
48 Schools requires all students to be face-to-face. Masks are currently mandated, which is requirement based
49 on numbers in the schools’ communities.
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51 **DIT2021-021** Discuss Recreation Subcommittee Report

52 **Clarissa Sparks, Recreation and Parks Subcommittee** reported the subcommittee has collaborated with
53 Sandy Springs Together, which is a non-partisan project that is dedicated to educating the public about
54 housing and economic development issues within the Sandy Springs. An 18 question survey, though Survey
55 Monkey, will be distributed to over 17,000 Sandy Springs registered voters over the next three weeks,
56 through the last week of August. The survey will be shared in batches, and will be available in Spanish and
57 English. The goals of the survey are to capture how the City can make parks and recreation activities
58 inclusive of the diverse community and to capture data that can be reported to the City Council and
59 Recreation and Parks Department. Following the survey, there will be a series of focus groups to hear the
60 recommendations from community members. Analyzed survey results will be available in October.

61
62 **Olivia Rocamora, Housing Subcommittee Chair** stated the City Council allocated \$.25M for recreation
63 for underserved communities. It may be a great next step for the survey results to see what funding can be
64 used for the projects.

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66 **DIT2021-022** Discuss Housing Subcommittee Report

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68 **Olivia Rocamora, Housing Subcommittee Chair** stated the final report was shared with Mayor Rusty
69 Paul in June. The two items on the list of recommendations that I will push are for continuing Phase 2 of
70 the Housing Study. We are not the experts in housing, and the outside consulting group did a successful job
71 with Phase 1. This is a national crisis. There is no need for us to try to figure out what needs to be done as
72 much as we need to push for professional research for what other cities that are similar to Sandy Springs
73 are doing and go from there. Lastly, the other recommendation is for us to present to City Council the
74 cartoon addressing imbalance. After speaking to a councilmember, I was made aware of how much the
75 Council is already having conversation about diversity and inclusion. We are talking about some of the
76 same things. For example, there is a city councilmember leading the charge to create the Facebook page
77 *Sandy Springs en Español*. There are also efforts to solidify an annual Juneteenth celebration. We are seven
78 months into the Task Force, and it may be a great time to extend an invitation to the City Council to attend
79 one of our meetings. Maybe quarterly or twice a year we can extend a formal invitation to the Mayor and
80 City Council to be a part of our meetings. I propose we invite them to the September 2021 meeting.

81
82 **Chair Jim Bostic** stated such a meeting could be before this year's election, but maybe also after the
83 election when we know who will be on the next the City Council. Before we invite Council, I want to ask
84 the Mayor. Also, it is important for us to have a plan for translation services for reports and communications.

85
86 **Subcommittee Chair Rocamora** stated using Google Translate Chrome web extension to translate
87 information on the City's website is a helpful tool, but a lot of important documents are provided in PDF
88 form, which cannot be translated by Google Translate. This is why the recommendations asks for important
89 City documents, which we need to define what that means, be translated into Spanish.

90
91 **Member Raquel González** stated it is a good idea to invite city councilmembers to a meeting. Everyone
92 is welcome to attend any of the Task Force's meetings. They are hosted in an open forum. But before we
93 do a formal invitation, I would like to work out that agenda to make sure we are having a productive
94 conversation. I do not know if we will have the opportunity to do that between now and the Task Force
95 next meeting.

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97 **DIT2021-023** Communications Subcommittee Report

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99 **Joshua Heller, Communications Subcommittee Chair** stated the Communications Subcommittee will
100 include Nicole Morris, Jose Osorio and Olivia Rocamora. The goal of the Subcommittee is to explore how
101 to ensure all the residents in Sandy Springs are aware of what is going on. There are some areas in Sandy
102 Springs where they have more information than what they know what to do with, and others where they

103 residents to not have access to the weekly print newspapers. There are people with language barriers or
104 those without steady internet access. We need to think about how those people get access to decisions that
105 impact their lives. One concern about getting the survey to only registered voters is that there may be people
106 in our community who are not registered voters. How do we know we are giving everyone access to civic
107 information. The subcommittee meeting will be in the next couple of weeks.

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109 **DIT2021-024** Open Discussion

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111 **Chair Jim Bostic** stated the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force will meet again on September 14, 2021 at
112 6:00 p.m.

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114 **VI. Other Business**

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116 **Olivia Rocamora, Housing Subcommittee Chair** asked how will the agenda for a meeting with the City
117 Council be created.

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119 **Chair Jim Bostic** stated the he can work on it and then shared with Raquel. It has to be a published agenda.

120
121 **Member Raquel González** stated as a committee, we need to understand what is that we want to know
122 from everyone participating in the meeting and what are we communicating to the City Council. So far, the
123 group has approved some recommendations for housing, and we are still working our way through the
124 survey regarding recreation and different ways of communicating with the public. I want to know from the
125 group, what conversation are we going to have at the formal meeting.

126
127 **Chair Jim Bostic** stated we are only talking about Housing.

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129 **Subcommittee Chair Rocamora** replied Housing, and also letting City Council know what we are
130 currently doing with the survey in case there are existing initiatives that we should know about. I will email
131 ideas. It is great to get them involved even when we are in the middle of things.

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133 **VII. Prayer** – Rabbi Joshua Heller, Congregation B'nai Torah

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135 **VIII. Adjournment**

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137 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **6:38 p.m.**

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141 
142 James E. Bostic, Jr., Chair


Raquel D. González, Recording Secretary

