Community Reparations Commission – Quarterly Update

Presented by

DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager
Christine Edwards, Civility Localized

County Manager’s Report
November 15, 2022
OVERVIEW

• Background

• Project Management Update

• Work in Progress

• Looking Ahead

• Commission Appointments

• Discussion
BACKGROUND
Community Reparations Commission - The Journey thus far...

The Art of Becoming
• TEQuity LLC
  • Contracted by City of Asheville – September 2021
  • Convened 1st Commission Meeting – April 30, 2022

• Additional project mgmt. support added
  • TEQuity subcontracts with Christine Edwards, Civility Localized

• Reassignment of Project Management (in full)
  • Civility Localized w/ Christine Edwards as Primary Lead
  • Considered by Asheville City Council tonight - November 15th

• Continuous County In-Kind Project Support
  • Planning & Legal advisement
  • Communications & Engagement
  • Subject Matter Expertise for 5 Impact Focus Areas
  • Security – Buncombe County Sheriff’s Office
WORK IN PROGRESS

• IFA Workgroups
  • Contract Facilitation w/ SME support
  • In Community & In Person
  • Critical Path – Identify Harms, Evaluate Data & Develop Recommendations

• Recommendations
  • *Immediate*, Short Term, Mid Term & Long Term
  • Buncombe County Board of Commissioners include a line item in their budget for reparations for Black people in Buncombe County as a percentage of the overall budget in perpetuity *[Immediate]*
    • BOCC Approved - $500K w/ 2% annual increase
LOOKING AHEAD

• Process Re-engineering
  • Based on community & survey feedback
  • Structured data request/response process
  • Developing standard recommendation template for use across IFAs
  • Developing process for recommendation vetting and full commission consideration

• Develop 2023 Communications & Public Engagement Plan
  • More informal touch points for commission members
  • More communication resources available
  • Regular update to city website and engagement hub
  • Partnership with youth-led BIPOC multimedia communications
  • Expand opportunities to collaborate with other organizations on reparations work

• Re-work Short-Term Recommendations milestone (current milestone is March 2023)

• Next Commission Meeting: December 5, 2022, 6 PM – 8 PM, Harrah’s Civic Center
COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

• Six Commission Appointments
  • By Impact Focus Areas
  • 1 vacancy

• Alternates
  • 2 appointments
    • 1 elevated to full participation
    • 1 recent resignation
    • 2 vacancies
# COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

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<th>OPTIONS</th>
<th>POSSIBLE PROS</th>
<th>POSSIBLE CONS</th>
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| A – Elevate current alternates (COA/Neighborhoods) | • No time lost  
• Continuity of work / knowledge | • Reduction of representation across county  
• Reduction of members appointed solely for focus area expertise |
| B – Review previous applicants | • Reduces time lost – no application process  
• Clear indication of interest | • Applicants may have lost interest or relocated  
• Depending on the pool, may also include the cons above  
• Level setting / onboarding required |
| C – Re-open application process | • Extends opportunities for participation  
• Allows access to those who reside in unincorporated Buncombe County  
• Increase knowledge of commission charge and goals | • Adds time to filling the seats  
• Level setting / onboarding required |
DISCUSSION