STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL
JOINT POLICY GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
JULY 28, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING
2:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM

1) Call to Order, Welcome and Attendance

Chair Edwin Shirley called the special meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Edwin Shirley (Chair)
Avery Gaddis
Tina Beamon
Corrie Betts
Shirley Skyers-Thomas

Members Not Present:

Kyle Abercrombie
Greg Davis

A quorum was confirmed

2) Approval of June 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Chair Shirley called for a motion to approve the June 18, 2026, meeting minutes.

Motion: Tina Beamon
Second: Corrie Betts
Discussion: None
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion passed unanimously.

3) Review of Draft Policies Implementing 2026 Legislative Changes

Chief Executive Officer Brandon L. McGee explained that staff had prepared draft operational policies to implement legislative changes enacted during the 2026 legislative session. The policies are intended to provide greater clarity and consistency in administering the Social Equity Program, including ownership and control requirements, eligibility, backer status, investigations, and other statutory responsibilities.

Attorney Nichelle Mullins reviewed the drafting process, noting that the policies remain in a preliminary stage. Staff completed internal drafting, solicited feedback from external stakeholders, and presented the drafts to the Committee before forwarding them to the Office of the Attorney General for legal review. Following review by the Attorney General, the Governor's Office, and [Office of Policy Management] OPM, the policies will return to the Committee for additional review before consideration by the full Council.

Definitions

- Establishes definitions for key statutory terms including coercion, complaint, investigation, respondent, and undue pressure.
- Clarifies who may file complaints and how investigations will proceed.
- Definitions will expand as additional regulations are developed.

Social Equity Eligibility / Replacement of Backer Policy

- Clarifies the Council's authority to review social equity applications and to request documents.
- Requires applicants to notify the Council and [Department of Consumer Protection] DCP of ownership, management, control, or eligibility changes before implementation.
- Allows replacement of a backer upon death or a one-time replacement under statutory conditions while preserving qualifying ownership and control.
- Requires Council review and written approval, approval with conditions, or denial.
- Intended to protect social equity individuals from coercion and preserve meaningful ownership and control.

Changes to Equity Joint Ventures (EJV) Policy

- After five years, an EJV may request ownership changes subject to Council review.
- Requires payment of an $8,000 non-refundable processing fee and satisfaction of outstanding loans associated with the EJV.
- Prohibits agreements that would reduce the social equity owner to a passive role.
- Matters rejected by the Council may be referred to the Department of Consumer Protection for enforcement.

- Reviews the agreements that an EJV may enter into with a contractor or third party vendor.

Investigations Policy

- Noted that this is an internal policy that does not need to go through the formal rulemaking process at this time.
- Staff presented a preliminary internal investigations policy that will become effective October 1, 2026 while formal rulemaking continues.
- The policy will undergo additional review by the Committee, Council, Attorney General, and public comment process before becoming a formal regulation.

Committee Discussion

Chair Shirley requested clarification regarding situations in which an Equity Joint Venture might seek ownership changes. Attorney Mullins explained that requests may involve replacement or addition of backers or other ownership changes, and emphasized that the Council's role is to ensure social equity status, ownership, and control are preserved. She also stressed that ownership changes require prior Council approval.

Committee Action

Motion: Corrie Betts: "Approve the proposed policies as presented and authorize staff to proceed with next steps necessary for implementation including any required internal review, legal review, and other actions required by law or Council policy prior to final adoption."
Second: Avery Gaddis
Discussion: None
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion passed unanimously.

4) Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Avery Gaddis
Second: Corrie Betts

There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 10:22 a.m.