

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL (DRAFT)

December 15, 2022, Meeting 10 A.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Edwin Shirley at 10:07am

**Committee Members Present:**

Subira Gordon

Michael Jefferson

Ojala Naeem

**SEC Staff Present:**

GINNE-RAE CLAY, Executive Director, SEC; KOMLA MATREVI, Staff Attorney, SEC; KRISTINA DIAMOND, Communications & Legislative Program Manager, SEC; CRYSTAL MORRIS-CRENSHAW, Administrative Assistant, SEC

**Guests:**

Andréa Comer

Kyle Abercrombie

Chairman Shirley asked for a motion to approve the November Meeting Minutes.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Subira Gordon

In Favor – Edwin Shirley, Michael Jefferson, Subira Gordon

Abstention – Ojala Naeem

Motion passed.

Attorney Matrevi presented the observations made by CohnReznick on what documents were and were not useful in reviewing income and residency for Social Equity applications. They found 3 years of pay stubs created a high volume of documents and they recommended this not be a required document. Wage and tax statements (W-2) only confirm one source of income and total income cannot be confirmed. Staff recommended keeping it on the accompanying documents list, but applicants need to be notified that one W-2 form may not be enough. Staff recommended excluding Social Security cards as required documents as the number itself would be sufficient. The Record of Account Transcript includes the tax return and was fine to use but CohnReznick found applicants did not provide this document. CohnReznick determined Annuity Statements, Pension/Retirement Distribution Statements, or Court-Ordered Agreements were not useful in determining income. Overall, CohnReznick found tax returns, 1040EZ or 1040 including all schedules, for the previous 3 years to be the most useful documents in determining income as well as residency for Social Equity applicants. The above-mentioned documents could be used by individuals as accompanying documents as applicable to their situation.

Attorney Matrevi stated the amendment should include removing the Social Security card as a required document and reflect that tax returns are the primary proof of income document.

Committee members stated they need to be clear about what are required documents versus supporting documents.

Staff will update the current document with what is required for income and residency and submit it to the Committee for review prior to the January Council meeting.

Executive Director Clay stated for the next round of the lottery, it will be a new application process in which the Council can change the required documents and the process. No one is grandfathered into the new process or the new map.

Executive Director Clay said the motion is that the Committee recommend to the full Council the revisions of required acceptable documents for the verification of Social Equity applicants and that the Social Equity Council Staff revises all documents based on CohnReznick's recommended revisions.

Motion – Michael Jefferson

Second – Ojala Naeem

In Favor – Edwin Shirley, Ojala Naeem, Michael Jefferson, Subira Gordon

Abstention – None

Motion passed.

Chairman Shirley asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion – Michael Jefferson

Second – Ojala Naeem

In Favor – Edwin Shirley, Michael Jefferson, Ojala Naeem

Abstention – None

Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48am.

/ad