STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL (DRAFT)

October 3, 2023 Meeting 10 A.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Robertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order10:01 AM

1. Attendance

Corey Betts

Andréa Comer Avery Gaddis

Subira Gordon

Michael Jefferson

Ojala Naeem

Melvin Medina Marc Pelka

Paul O. Robertson Edwin Shirley

Shirley Skyers-Thomas

Kelli-Marie Vallieres Kevin Walton

Subira Gordon

Andrea Hawkins

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director, SEC; Karen Colebut, Paralegal Specialist, SEC; Jennifer Edwards, Program Manager; SEC; Komla Matrevi, Staff Attorney, SEC. Vera Lembrick, Program Manager, SEC; Arlene Galindo-Jimenez, Program Manager, SEC; Jennifer Stevens, Associate Accountant, SEC.

1. Approval of September 12 Meeting Minutes

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to approve the July 6th meeting minutes.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson Second – by Andrea Comer

In Favor – All

Opposed – None Abstentions – None Motion passed.

1. Executive Session
   1. Discussion on Pending Litigation involving the Council.

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to move to Executive Session.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Edwin Shirley

In Favor – All Opposed – None Abstentions – None Motion passed.

Chairman Robertson took attendance upon return from Executive Session.

Attendance:

Julianne Avallone Corrie Betts Andréa Comer Avery Gaddis

Michael Jefferson Melvin Medina Marc Pelka

Paul O. Robertson Edwin Shirley

Kelli-Marie Vallieres Kevin Walton

Subira Gordon

1. Executive Director’s Report and Recommendations.

* Staffing Update – Final Interviews for the Administrative Assistant and posting a position for an additional staff attorney.
* Program updates- The Cannabis Revolving Loan Fund – receiving applications for the loan fund.
* Committee Update – Pilot Grant Program Waterbury has approved thirty-one applications. Bridgeport is reviewing the sixty-nine applications that were received. In Southeastern Connecticut (New London, Winham, Norwich) thirty-four applications were received. Hartford received thirty-one applications. Those applications are presently being reviewed. New Haven received twenty-five grant requests. Stamford received forty-nine applications.
* 2024/25 Reinvestment Plan Timeline/Goals

Discussion ensued.

* Community Conversations – Trusted messengers are re-convening as their contracts were approved on September 27, 2023.
* Community Survey will continue.
* On board new staff.
* What’s New – The SEC Website is up and running. It is live. Please follow us on Facebook.

1. Committee’s Recommendations –

* Councilwoman Comer stated, “the Finance Committee will meet later this month.”
* Councilwoman Vallieres stated that they have chosen a Workforce/Development Coordinator.
* Councilwoman asked if there was further clarification from OPM regarding the distinction between the fund and the account. Director Clay stated that an email was sent to the Council regarding the response from OPM.

1. For the Good of the Order – New Business, Updates, and Information None
2. Adjourn

Chairman Robertson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis

Second – by Michael Jefferson

In Favor – All

Opposed – None Abstentions – None Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 A.M.