



Social Equity Council

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE (DRAFT)

January 24, 2023, Meeting 2 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

MEETING MATERIALS

- January Meeting Agenda
- Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 OPM Recommended Biennium Budget

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Andréa Comer at 2:03 p.m.

2. Attendance

Andréa Comer
Marc Pelka
Paul O. Robertson
Edwin Shirley
Kevin Walton

Council members absent:

None

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director; Jennifer Edwards, Program Manager, SEC; Komla Matrevi, Staff Attorney, SEC; Kristina Diamond, Communications & Legislative Program Manager, SEC; Jennifer Stevens, Associate Accountant, SEC.

3. Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 OPM Recommended Biennium Budget

Councilman Pelka reviewed that the Social Equity Council voted on a requested budget in late September or early October, and OPM staff worked with SEC staff to understand the proposal. Based on review and consultation, OPM developed a recommended budget to return to the SEC to consider. Councilman Pelka provided slides regarding the various accounts and funds: Cannabis Regulatory and Investment Account, Social Equity and Innovation Account, Social Equity and Innovation Fund, and Prevention and Recovery Services Fund. He discussed the differences between each account. He explained that the SEC retains discretion over formulating plans and carrying out its duty, but the SEC budget is introduced as part of the governor's budget and reviewed then by the General Assembly,

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which reaches decisions regarding the final product, which then is passed by a vote and then signed by the governor. He presented a slide describing how the accounts are funded.

Councilman Shirley asked if the \$5M to be repaid from the Social Equity and Innovation Fund to the General Fund would come out of the first-year allocation to the budget.

Councilman Pelka believed that was the case.

Chairwoman Comer later added that the \$5M will come out prior to the rollover and would not affect the budgeting process.

Councilman Jefferson questioned if the money in the Social Equity and Innovation Account will roll over into Social Equity and Innovation Fund at the end of the fiscal year and asked what that amount is. He questioned if anyone besides the SEC had access to those monies and was concerned about how the fund would be controlled.

Councilman Pelka did not have the number for that account but clarified that the fund is held by the Treasurer, separate from any other funds and that the monies would be appropriated by the General Assembly. He further discussed how the revenue estimates of \$5.8M and \$10.2M were determined for the OPM's recommended budget. He discussed the concern among the council members to spend down funds and discussed the recent proposals for Reinvestment and Workforce Development and the detail needed for the operating budget of the SEC. After the proposal is completed, the SEC may submit it and request funds from the account.

Councilman Jefferson shared concerns about there being no monies set aside for Community Reinvestment and Workforce Development in OPM's budget for fiscal years '24 and '25.

There was further discussion about the need for a more detailed plan before it can be included in the budget, but that OPM would provide the funds when a plan is more clearly articulated.

Councilman Pelka stated that OPM would like clarity around the estimated number of people to be served, the estimated amount of services to be expended per person, a plan for where to implement Workforce and Community Reinvestment, a capture of use of funds for upfront one-time investments versus ongoing commitments, and whether the funds are being used to enhance what is already in place versus creating something brand new.

There was more discussion about the concerns of the money not being available if it was not allocated in the budget.

Chairman Robertson believed this was a first step, that once a strategy was in place, it could be measured for success and the money would follow.



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3. Recommendations to the Full Council

There were no specific recommendations.

4. Other business

There was no other business.

5. Adjournment

Chairwoman Comer requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Paul O. Robertson

Second – by Edwin Shirley:

The meeting adjourned at 3:03.

/ab



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February 15, 2023

RE: Transcript: SEC Finance Comm Sp. Mtg 1-24-2023

Please be advised that the above-referenced typewritten transcript is a true and accurate transcription of the recorded conversations to the extent that the audio could be clearly heard/understood. Portions that could not be heard/understood have been notated with a (an “inaudible” or “?...”).

Sincerely,

Mary A. Goehring

Mary A. Goehring
CEO, Transcription Plus, LLC

I certify that this document is a true and accurate transcription of the audio voice file indicated above.

Anne Bruno
Anne Bruno