

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING (DRAFT)

May 17, 2023, Meeting 9:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

## MEETING MATERIALS

- May Special Meeting Agenda

### 1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul O. Robertson at 9:04 a.m.

### 2. Attendance

Julianne Avallone  
Andrea Comer  
Corrie Betts  
Avery Gaddis  
Melvin Medina  
Ojala Naeem  
Marc Pelka  
Paul O. Robertson

Council members absent:

Subira Gordon  
Michael Jefferson  
Edwin Shirley  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres  
Kevin Walton

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

### 3. Committee Recommendations

- Reinvestment Committee Ojala Naeem  
The Reinvestment Committee met last week to review remaining proposals for reinvestment. The recommendations were to grant \$1M each to the Hispanic Federation and the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

Chairwoman Naeem made a motion to approve \$1M for the Hispanic Federation for reinvestment in Hartford.

Councilwoman Avallone asked if these applicants were part of the original RFP.

Chairwoman Naeem stated the Hispanic Federation was part of the original RFP. The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut was added when it was recognized representation from that part of the state was lacking.

Motion – by Ojala Naeem  
Second – by Corrie Betts  
In Favor – All  
Abstention – Julianne Avallone  
Motion passed.

Chairwoman Naeem made a motion to approve \$1M for the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for reinvestment.

Motion – by Ojala Naeem  
Second – by Corrie Betts  
In Favor – All  
Abstention – Julianne Avallone  
Motion passed.

- Policy Committee Komla Matrevi  
Chairman Shirley was not present, so Attorney Matrevi presented the Policy Committee's recommendations. It was recommended that the Council vote to take a position on HB6700 that should cannabis cultivation be opened to hemp growers, it should be conditioned by the late start for hemp farmers to cultivate cannabis to 2026, contingent upon an assessment of the market to analyze the risk of oversupply. A fee of \$3M should be paid by hemp growers to cultivate cannabis. There should be a limitation on the number of hemp farmers allowed to cultivate cannabis. No EJV creation should be allowed for hemp farmers, and hemp farmers must submit a Social Equity Plan and Workforce Development Plan just like everyone else.

The measure failed for lack of motion.

It was clarified that it should be conveyed to the General Law Committee that there was a request for a motion and the motion was not called.

#### 4. For the Good of the Order

There were no updates.

#### 5. Adjourn

Chairman Robertson requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis  
Second – by Andrea Comer  
In Favor – All  
Abstention – None

Adjourned at 9:14 a.m.