

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL (DRAFT)

July 6, 2023, Meeting 10 A.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Paul Robertson called the meeting to order made opening remarks concerning the most recent US Supreme Court decision on affirmative action.

2. Attendance

Julianne Avallone  
Corrie Betts  
Andréa Comer  
Avery Gaddis  
Subira Gordon  
Michael Jefferson  
Melvin Medina  
Ojala Naeem  
Marc Pelka  
Paul O. Robertson  
Edwin Shirley  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres  
Kevin Walton

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director, SEC; Karen Colebut, Paralegal, SEC; Kristina Diamond, Communications & Legislative Program Manager, SEC; Komla Matrevi, Staff Attorney, SEC; Paige Rasid, DECD; Jennifer Stevens, Associate Accountant, SEC.

3. Approval of May 2 and May 17 Meeting Minutes

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to approve the May 2 and May 17 meeting minutes.

Motion – by Edwin Shirley  
Second – by Michael Jefferson  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.

4. Executive Session

a. Discussion on Pending Litigation Involving the Council

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

Motion – by Michael Jefferson  
Second – by Subira Gordon  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.

Paul Robertson took attendance upon return from Executive Session.

5. Vote on Workforce Development Plans

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to accept CohnReznick’s recommendations to approve Workforce Development Plans submitted by EJ Ventures 2 LLC (AMHF008235) and CTPharma Solutions LLC (AMHF00082757).

Motion – by Michael Jefferson  
Second – by Subira Gordon  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.

6. Vote on Social Equity Plans

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to accept CohnReznick’s recommendations to approve Social Equity Plans submitted by Budr Holding 2 LLC, Nutmeg Willington JV LLC, Nutmeg Killingly JV LLC and by CTPharma Norwich LLC.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson  
Second – by Edwin Shirley  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.

7. Executive Director’s Report

Ginne-Rae Clay welcomed Karen Colebut, SEC’s new paralegal. Administrative Assistant interviews were completed. Interviews will take place next week for Reinvestment Program Manager and Outreach Program Manager.

The Accelerator Program expects to graduate its first cohort in September. Staff is working with Oaksterdam University for a graduation ceremony and pitch competition. Council Members will receive a save-the-date notice. The ceremony is open to the public.

The Attorney General's Office approved contracts for the Canna-Business Revolving Loan Fund.

For the Community Reinvestment Grant Program, all selected grant-making partners have fully executed contracts and received funds. On June 20, grant-makers met to have their questions answered and to receive clarification on the process. A public announcement was made through a press release on June 22. Grant-makers were asked to send their grant management plan on how they plan to roll out the program. After those plans are reviewed, the Council and Reinvestment Committee will receive recommendations on grant approval.

Today, Council will vote on approving proposals for Trusted Managers to facilitate community conversations in New Haven, Waterbury and Hartford. Contracts will be executed upon final approval from the Office of the Attorney General. Staff will follow up on recommendations for Trusted Messengers in Stamford, Eastern Connecticut and Bridgeport.

July goals include the following: Finalize FY 2024 goals for staff and Council. Review Social Equity Plans. Provide a community conversation contract update. Launch the Canna-Business Revolving Loan Fund. Announce grant-maker local grants. Finalize Council's process for reinvestment grant approval based on grant-makers' recommendations.

Upcoming Committee Meetings: Governance, July 12; Outreach, July 14; Workforce Development, July 19; Policy, July 20. Attendees can access Committee meetings via Teams or dial-in by phone.

The Accelerator Program accepted 35 participants, 28 have continued. Participants are standing up their businesses and going through the DCP licensing process while they are in the Accelerator Program. The Accelerator Program is included in the 2024 goals. How to best utilize the program going forward will be determined.

## 8. Committee Reports

### a. Finance Committee

Andréa Comer stated that the Finance Committee did not meet last month. The monthly balance sheet ending June 30, 2023 including year-to-date expenditures was emailed to Council on July 3. Total expenditures for June were \$6.4 million, including \$6 million distributed for community reinvestment. Total year-to-date expenditures were \$8.8 million, representing 82% of the total Fiscal Year 2023 budget of \$10,742,000.

### b. Governance Committee

Ojala Naeem made a motion to combine the Reinvestment Committee and Workforce Committee, combine the Policy Committee and Governance Committee, and make no changes to the Finance Committee and Outreach Committee.

Motion – by Ojala Naeem

Second – by Michael Jefferson

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

Paul Robertson will send a list of the updated Committees and meeting times as well as reappoint Committee Chairs.

c. Reinvestment Committee

No report presented.

d. Outreach and Marketing Committee

Subira Gordon interviewed individuals for outreach community conversations, and a few have executed contracts. The Outreach Committee selected three organizations for approval by Council: Bridge to Success to facilitate conversations in Waterbury, Next Level Empowerment to facilitate conversations in New Haven, and Tiffany Young of From Pain to Purpose to facilitate conversations in Hartford. This outreach process is to ensure we have the community's feedback for our next iteration of funds.

Subira Gordon moved to accept the recommendation of the Outreach Committee to approve the three organizations to facilitate community conversations.

Motion – by Subira Gordon

Second – by Kevin Walton

In Favor – Julianne Avallone, Andréa Comer, Avery Gaddis, Subira Gordon, Michael Jefferson, Melvin Medina, Ojala Naeem, Marc Pelka, Paul O. Robertson, Edwin Shirley, Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Kevin Walton

Opposed – None

Abstention – Corrie Betts

Motion passed.

Subira Gordon remarked that RFP applicants were required to provide translation services for community conversations. Ginne-Rae Clay commented that sign language was also added. Some applicants were not selected because they did not meet the RFP criteria of having worked with individuals who were previously incarcerated, having a strong belief in equity and having connections to the community.

e. Policy Committee

Edwin Shirley stated that the Policy Committee did not meet last month. The next scheduled meeting is July 20, subject to change due to restructuring.

f. Workforce Development Committee

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Kelli-Marie Vallieres stated that the Workforce Development Committee did not meet last month. Ginne-Rae Clay will assist in setting up interviews for Workforce Development Coordinator candidates.

9. For the Good of the Order – New Business, Updates and Information

None

10. Adjourn

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Andréa Comer

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned.

/m

July 13, 2023

RE: Minutes: July SEC Council Meeting Minutes Draft

Please be advised that the above-referenced typewritten minutes are a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from 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 description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded conversations contained in the listed audio file.

*Michelle L. Coronado*  
Michelle L. Coronado