

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL (DRAFT)

May 2, 2023, Meeting 10:03 A.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to order and welcome

Chair Robertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Attendance

Juliane Avallone
Corrie Betts
Avery Gaddis
Subira Gordon
Michael Jefferson
Marc Pelka
Paul O. Robertson
Edwin Shirley
Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Council members absent:

Ojala Naeem
Melvin Medina
Kevin Walton

Staff: Executive Director Ginne-Rae Clay, Staff Attorney Komla Matrievi, Program Manager Jennifer Edwards; Legislative and Communications Manager Kristina Diamond, Associate Accountant Jennifer Stevens

3. Approval for the April 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair Robertson asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Corrie Betts
In Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion passed.

4. Executive Session

- a. Discussion on Pending Litigation involving the Council.

Chair Robertson asked for a motion to move to the executive session.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Corrie Betts
In Favor – All
Motion passed.

The Council entered executive session.

The Council returned from executive session, and Chair Robertson took attendance.

Council members present:

Juliane Avallone
Corrie Betts
Avery Gaddis
Subira Gordon
Michael Jefferson
Marc Pelka
Paul O. Robertson
Edwin Shirley
Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Kevin Alvarez (Designee)
Kevin Walton

Council members absent:

Melvin Medina
Ojala Naeem

5. Vote on Equity Joint Ventures

- a. Vote on Recommendation for Approval.

Chair Robertson requested a motion to approve two equity joint applications for ACRE0015672 submitted respectively by BUDR Holding 5, LLC and AMHF008266 submitted by Sweetspot Stamford, LLC.

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

- b. Vote on Recommendation for Denial in Accordance with C.G.S. sec. 21a-420d(k).

Chair Robertson requested a motion to deny the equity joint application #AMHF0008667 submitted by Sweetspot West Hartford, LLC in accordance with Section 21a-420d(k).

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

6. Vote on Workforce Development Plans CohnReznick

Chair Robertson asked for a motion to approve the Workforce Development plans submitted respectively by Nutmeg Killingly JV, LLC and Nutmeg Willington JV, LLC.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Kelli-Marie Vallieres
In Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion passed.

7. Vote on Social Equity Plans

Chair Robertson asked for a motion to approve four Social Equity plans submitted by BUDR Holding, LLC; Connecticut Social Equity, LLC; SFCCT, LLC; and Nutmeg Delivery, LLC.

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

8. Executive Director’s Report Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director

Director Clay provided updates related to staffing, programs, legislation, and May’s goals.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee Andréa Comer, Chair
In lieu of Chair Comer, Kevin Alvarez did not have a report.
- b. Governance Committee Ojala Naeem, Chair
There was no update as Chair Naeem was not present [14:14].
- c. Reinvestment Committee Ojala Naeem, Chair
Council Member Gaddis announced that the Committee met and voted to move recommendations forward with \$1M each for Waterbury, New Haven, Bridgeport, and the Stamford area.
 - o Vote on Responses to Proposals for Reinvestment.

Council Member Gaddis motioned to provide \$1M for Community Reinvestment in Waterbury to Neighborhood Housing Services of Waterbury. He noted that nothing would be final until the appropriate personnel signed off on the agreements, and this was only to continue the process.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis
Second – by Michael Jefferson
In Favor – Corrie Betts, Michael Jefferson, Marc Pelka, Juliane Avallone, Edwin Shirley, Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Opposed – None
Abstention – Avery Gaddis, Subira Gordon, Kevin Alvarez, Paul O. Robertson
Motion passed.

Council Member Gaddis motioned to move forward \$1M for Community Reinvestment in New Haven to the Prosperity Foundation.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis
Second – by Subira Gordon

Discussion ensued.

In Favor – Corrie Betts, Avery Gaddis, Subira Gordon, Marc Pelka, Juliane Avallone, Kevin Walton, Edwin Shirley, Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Opposed – None
Abstention – Kevin Alvarez, Michael Jefferson, Paul O. Robertson
Motion passed.

On behalf of the Reinvestment Committee, Council Member Gaddis moved for \$1M for Community Reinvestment in Bridgeport to the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis
Second – by Michael Jefferson
In Favor – Corrie Betts, Avery Gaddis, Subira Gordon, Michael Jefferson, Marc Pelka, Paul O. Robertson, Juliane Avallone, Kevin Walton, Edwin Shirley, Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Opposed – None
Abstention – Kevin Alvarez
Motion passed.

Council Member Gaddis moved that \$1M go to the community in Stamford to the United Way of Western Connecticut.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis
Second – by Michael Jefferson
In Favor – Corrie Betts, Avery Gaddis, Subira Gordon, Michael Jefferson, Marc Pelka, Paul O. Robertson, Juliane Avallone, Kevin Walton, Edwin Shirley, Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Opposed – None
Abstention – Kevin Alvarez
Motion passed.

d. Outreach and Marketing Committee Subira Gordon, Chair

Chair Gordon had interviewed a few providers in DIAs to hold community conversations. Chair Gordon asked that the Council continue to interview candidates, as there were only two RFQs, and that there be a special Council meeting to approve the final applicants before the next meeting. The process has been extended to May 12. Chair Gordon also asked to be contacted if there were any issues. Chair Gordon noted that there would be a vote on two RFQs to host community conversations. Discussion ensued.

Council Member Gordon requested a motion to approve Waterbury Bridge to Success to host community conversations in the Waterbury area.

Motion – by Subira Gordon
Second – by Michael Jefferson
In Favor – Corrie Betts, Avery Gaddis, Michael Jefferson, Marc Pelka, Paul O. Robertson, Juliane Avallone, Kevin Walton, Edwin Shirley, Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Opposed – None
Abstention – Subira Gordon, Kevin Alvarez
Motion passed.

Council Member Gordon declared there would be a vote on an RFQ from Next Level Empowerment Program out of New Haven to host community conversations in New Haven. They were a grassroots nonprofit who could sponsor, host, and organize conversations. They presented a great application and proved to the Committee they could host conversations in the time allocated.

Council Member Gordon asked for a motion to approve Next Level Empowerment Program hosting community conversations in New Haven.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Kevin Walton
In Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion passed.

Discussion ensued.

- e. Policy Committee Edwin Shirley

Council Member Shirley declared that there had not been a meeting; it had been postponed. Also, a request for the May 18th meeting to be moved to an earlier Convenient date.

- f. Workforce Development Committee Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Council Member Vallieres noted that the Committee did not meet last month and there was nothing to report.

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

There were no comments.

11. Adjourn

Chair Robertson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis
Second – by Michael Jefferson
In Favor – All
Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57AM.