

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING (DRAFT)

November 30, 2023, Meeting 10:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Shirley at 10:01 a.m.

2. Attendance

Michael Jefferson
Shirley Skyers-Thomas
Edwin Shirley

Council members absent:

Avery Gaddis
Ojala Naeem

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director; Anna Rosa, Administrative Assistant

3. Updated Social Equity Plan Criteria

Chair Shirley announced this was a continuation of the regular Policy Committee meeting. He noted that Section 4 of the original document had been removed. He asked for discussion related to the new criteria as submitted.

Council Member Jefferson asked that the issue be rehashed as to why the special meeting was being held. Executive Director Clay voiced that the criteria received by the committee was not new criteria but was a clarity of a Social Equity plan. They had assembled a document that provided clearer and more detailed Social Equity plan criteria. She explained that after a Social Equity plan criteria had been set, a plan approved, and a full license issued that the legislation was silent, and legislation did not allow the council to enforce implementation of the plan.

Council Member Jefferson stated that enforcement language was needed. He asked if the renewal was a requirement each year or if it was a review and if the review would determine if the plan had been implemented as presented. Executive Director Clay answered that the purpose of this meeting was to approve the improved criteria. At the next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting there would be further discussion related to legislation and possible amendment recommendations to the full council. She noted that earlier in the week Chair Shirley informed her that he had put forward some minor corrections and edits to the document, which were not contained in the current document, and she asked that the document be approved with any required edits.

Council Member Skyers-Thomas inquired if the Attorney General’s office had reviewed the document and if approved today when it would go to the full council. Executive Director Clay replied that it would go before council on December 5. Council Member Skyers-Thomas commented that she would not be able to attend that in-person meeting. Executive Director Clay expressed that a couple folks may not be able to attend in person, so the virtual availability may need to be addressed, which could be discussed offline. Executive Director Clay stated that the original criteria had been reviewed legally. She explained that this document was only an enhancement and provided more detail. She would have it reviewed by the Attorney General’s office. Chair Shirley asked Council Member Skyers-Thomas if she wanted the motion to include a condition upon review. Council Member Skyers-Thomas responded that would be satisfactory, and she did not believe it would need to come back to the committee unless there was a challenge upon review.

Chair Shirley queried why Item 6 on Page 2 was not acceptable as a goal. Executive Director Clay explained why that was not an acceptable goal for Social Equity impact.

Chair Shirley asked for a motion to approve the criteria for submission to the full council subject to another review by legal counsel.

Motion – by Edwin Shirley
Second – by Shirley Skyers-Thomas
In Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstention – None
Motion passed.

4. 2024 SEC Meeting Cadence

Ginne-Rae Clay clarified that this was related the cadence of all council meetings, not just this committee. No changes to the current meeting cadence were being recommended. There were four committees and one newly developed ad hoc committee, and each committee had a set monthly meeting dates and the new Personnel Committee would need to decide if there should be a couple meetings next year or if they would meet in just special meetings as needed, which would be discussed with Chair Jefferson. The monthly Social Equity Council was to meet on the first Tuesday of every month, but in the event of a holiday falling on that day, the meeting date would be changed. The information needed to be submitted to the Secretary of the State. Chair Shirley asked if it required a motion by the committee. Executive Director Clay did not know if it required a vote of the council. She noted that she could make it part of her Executive Director’s report. There had always been an opportunity offered for folks to object to the meeting cadence. Once the 2024 meeting cadence was confirmed without changes, it would be registered with the Secretary of the State.

Chair Shirley asked Council Members Jefferson and Skyers-Thomas if the cadence of the Policy Committee meetings was satisfactory. Council Member Jefferson answered that the 10:00 meetings were difficult, but he would adjust his schedule to accommodate the council. He questioned if going to a quarterly schedule for the full council had been discussed. Executive Director Clay remarked that it had been considered, but there would need to be

monthly meetings to accommodate the upcoming 2024 lottery. She explained that there was an option to cancel meetings. Council Member Jefferson thought there should be a quarterly meeting with personnel for the ad hoc committee, not a monthly meeting. Executive Director Clay noted that the cadence of the first meeting could be followed, that it could be at 4:00 on a Wednesday, and the dates could be provided as part of the meeting announcements. Council Member Jefferson agreed with that. Council Member Skyers-Thomas agreed with the current schedule for the Policy Committee.

5. For the Good of the Order – New Business

Chair Shirley declared that the special meeting did not allow for the Good of the Order.

Chair Shirley stated that the criteria with the stated conditions would be presented to the full council on December 5.

6. Adjournment

Council Member Jefferson motioned to adjourn.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Shirley Skyers-Thomas

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

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