

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL | Workforce Development Committee – **DRAFT**

Meeting Date and Time: January 18, 2023, 2:00 PM

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting of the Workforce Development Committee

Location: Microsoft TEAMS

Committee Chair: Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Members Present: Avery Gaddis, Paul Robertson, Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Members Absent: None

SEC Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, SEC ED, Kristina Diamond, SEC Legislative/Communications Program Manager

Call to order Meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm

Chairperson Vallieres welcomed members and the public to the Social Equity Council Workforce Committee and indicated that she was looking forward to sharing some of the work that has been done over the last few months.

Chairperson Vallieres stated that the committee last met in July of 2022 and the committee would table the approval of the minutes until the next committee meeting.

Chairperson Vallieres stated the purpose of this meeting is to share the draft workforce development plan strategy and budget. The plan and budget were put together based on past conversations with members of this committee and members of the SEC regarding workforce development being a component of community reinvestment.

Chairperson Vallieres shared on screen the draft workforce development plan and budget that was provided to the committee and council members.

Chairperson Vallieres stated the committee worked on two things. First is the justification as to why the SEC is including workforce development as a part of reinvestment and the relationship between the two. Chairperson Vallieres stressed this is an important component because when we think about bringing people out of poverty and into family sustaining wage jobs, we really are changing communities and at the core of those community members would then bring their wages back into their homes and into their communities to continue to grow their communities.

Chairperson Vallieres stressed that the document looked at other States and how they also look at workforce and community reinvestment. She said that the other states are looking at this in the same way we are with regards to workforce and economic development. She referred to another kind of justification for this is the federal Good Jobs Challenge Grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development. The DECD talked about this as a component of their grant application. She stated that economic agencies and Department of Education and the Department of Labor need to work together to really make significant changes in communities. And that this is reflected in this document. She asked Councilman Gaddis if he any feedback on the document.

Councilman Gaddis indicated that he did not have any feedback that would add any further value and stated that document he reviewed was very comprehensive.

Chairperson Vallieres thanked Councilman Gaddis for his brevity. Chairperson Vallieres stated that what the committee was looking to accomplish is trying to figure out a way to most systematically lay this out in a way that is easily understood. She stated that's exactly what we've done with regards to the Social Equity Council's budget and that the Council included workforce and reinvestment as line-items in the budget.

Chairperson Vallieres further stated that we break Community Reinvestment into three parts: workforce development, programmatic support and beautiful neighborhoods. She also put together an overview of what we're going to do with reach of the reinvestment components. We next put together a road map of timelines on when these things would go out and then the budget for the remainder of this year, and then the next two fiscal years. Chairperson Vallieres asked for further discussion.

No further discussion

Council Member Gaddis made a motion to approve the document as presented.

Seconded by Member Vallieres

All in Favor : All

Nye's: None

Abstentions: None

Chairperson Vallieres made a final comment related to posting a cannabis position by the end of this month, will be posting it for two weeks.

Discussion ensued.

Director Clay acknowledged that Chairman Robertson had joined the meeting. Chairman Robertson apologized for running late.

Discussion ensued.

Chairperson Vallieres asked if there was any other pending business and called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Gaddis called for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Chairperson Vallieres. Second by Chairman Robertson

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 pm

Meeting minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting of the Workforce Development Committee.