

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL | **Reinvestment / Workforce Development Committee**
(Draft)

Meeting Date: August 16, 2023, at 2PM

Meeting of the Reinvestment/Workforce Development Committee - Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

1. Call to Order at 2:04 PM

SEC Chairman Paul O. Robertson called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Members Present: Corey Betts, Andrea Comer, Avery Gaddis, Andrea Hawkins, Michael Jefferson, Ojala Naeem, Kellie-Marie Vallieres

Absent: Subira Gordon, Kevin Walton

SEC Staff: Executive Director Ginne-Rae Clay, Program Manager, Jennifer Edwards, Kristina Diamond, Legislative & Communication Program Manager, Komla Matrevi, Staff Attorney, SEC, Karen Colebut, Paralegal Specialist, SEC

Discussion – Consolidation of SEC Committees

I am Paul O. Robertson Chair of the Social Equity Council. The council has consolidated its committees with the intention of streamlining and increasing resources for the focused work of the council. Chairman Robertson added that his role at this meeting was to call for the nomination and vote for the committee chair of the Reinvestment /Workforce Committee.

2. Vote to Select Committee Chair

Chairman Robertson posed the question, “any nominations for chair of the Reinvestment/Workforce Development Committee”?

Chairman Robertson motioned for a vote on the committee chair:

Councilman Avery gaddis nominated Ojala Naeem
Councilman Corey Betts nominated Michael Jefferson

Vote: Ojala Naeem 5 votes /Michael Jefferson – 2 votes

In favor - All
Opposed - None
Abstention - None

The vote carried – Ojala Naeem was re-elected Chair of the Re-investment/Workforce Committee.

3. Vote to confirm meeting and dates and times of the Reinvestment/Workforce Development Committee. meets 2nd Friday of each month from 10-11am.

Motion: Michael Jefferson
Second: Paul Robertson
In favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstentions: 1

November 10th meeting reschedule - Veterans' Day holiday. Proposed new meeting date – November 17, 2023.

4. Hiring Update:

- SEC Program Manager
- OWS Cannabis Workforce Coordinator

Executive Director Clay stated that an offer of employment has been extended to a finalist for the Reinvestment Program Manager. That person will be the liaison for the committee. Executive Director Clay further stated that she is currently interviewing for the position of Cannabis Workforce coordinator and that person will also interact with this committee.

Discussion ensued.

5. Reinvestment /Workforce Plan

Executive Director Clay stated that she wanted to have this item on the agenda in the event the council had any questions. We established a pilot program this year which is in full affect. Folks are applying for the six million dollars that has been placed in each of the communities for the end of the last fiscal year and will be receiving those recommendations hopefully, very soon. Executive Director Clay asked if what the committees' thoughts were regarding their respective communities, and the folks committee members represent. Executive Director Clay stated that she would like the committee to share information with the SEC staff so that they can move some of that information into the reinvestment plan that will be developed through the community conversations.

Executive Director Clay stated that she believes the money that needs to be spent is approximately twenty million dollars from the special fund that we received through applications and conversion fees and money will be at our disposal July 2024. Our goal is to have the plan completed by May of 2024 and that will give us the opportunity to reach those secondary communities that are still affected by the war on drugs.

Discussion ensued.

6. For the Good of the Order

7. Adjournment

Motion: Michael Jefferson

Second: Corey Betts

In favor: All

Adjournment at 2:35 PM