

Consideration of DEI Board/Task Force

June 11, 2024

County Council Meeting

Background/History

- Sep 8, 2020 – Racial Justice Action Advisory Council presentation of Aug 19, 2020, petition at County Council meeting
 - Petition asked for County Council partnership to promote increased racial equity in the community
 - Council formally condemned killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and innumerable others
 - Council publicly declared black lives matter and committed to antiracism work
 - Council committed to further investigation and discussion with community members, groups, organizations, and County staff
- Dec 1, 2020 – Council meeting follow up discussion on petition recommendations
- Mar 31, 2021 – REI Task Force charter adopted and members approved
- March 2022 – Town Hall meetings
- July 2022 – REI Task Force final report and sunset

REI Task Force Recommendations

1. Develop and implement an active body (board or commission) of community volunteers
2. County sponsored community training
3. Expand outdoor and recreational opportunities for the BIPOC community
4. County oversight on REI topics and trainings including a community speaker series

Actions Taken

- Mar 29, 2022, County procured Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) membership
 - Provides municipalities with training and collaboration space to promote racial equity
- 2023, Council decided NOT to establish active body (board or commission)
 - Concern re: numbers of boards/commissions and effort required by staff
- Actions to address other recommendations?

Today's Recommendation

- County Council should reconsider the decision made in 2023 to not establish a board/commission
 - Racial equity is still a concern
 - Recent evidence of a need to address actions taken against marginalized groups in our community
 - Consider a broader theme of inclusivity
 - Race, culture, sexual orientation/gender identity, income, physical/mental ability, gender, etc.