

**City of Cleveland Heights  
Racial Justice Task Force  
January 26, 2022  
Public Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

Chair Rhonda Davis Lovejoy called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Planning Director Eric Zamft called the roll; a quorum was present.

Roll Call

Members Present

Sherlynn Allen-Harris  
Gary Benjamin  
Nate Berkey  
Mandy Colvin  
Rhonda Davis Lovejoy (Chair)  
Reginald Evans  
Lisa Hunt  
Taylor Jones  
Rosa Kovacevich  
Robert Lampley  
Akshai Singh  
Calvin Singleton  
Lisa Smith

Staff Present

Eric Zamft  
Captain Young  
Captain Britton  
Chief Mecklenburg

Members Absent

Kasia Bufford  
Demetrius Cheeks  
Mario Clopton-Zymler  
Barbara Danforth  
Angelique Gates  
Kalia Johnson  
Ron Register  
Michael Windom  
Randall Walker

Elected Officials Present

Hon. Craig Cobb, Councilperson

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the October, November, and December, 2021 Minutes was made by Reginald Evans. Seconded by Rosa Kovacevich, the motion passed without opposition.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

## Subcommittee Updates

### Health & Education

Lisa Hunt discussed the subcommittee's recent meeting. They intend to expand on their action plan as a way to develop their written update. For example, the subcommittee is in the process of examining how the City and County are coordinating efforts to address the health needs of marginalized populations within Cleveland Heights. Mandy Colvin has been speaking with the County Board of Health. Their 2022 strategic plan is still in development. Their 2021 plan provides some data on Cleveland Heights. Mandy is working with County staff and their partners in order to extract more Cleveland Heights specific data.

Rhonda asked if the subcommittee envisions recommending that the City coordinates an annual health fair. Lisa responded that she envisions their subcommittee providing health indicators and that can help inform Council on issues affecting marginalized populations so that efforts can be targeted in order to improve health outcomes. Mandy said that the County seems eager to partner with the Racial Justice Task Force and that a health fair would likely be a good tactic.

Lisa added that in regards to education, the subcommittee is interested in examining in what all schools in Cleveland Heights, both public and private, are doing in order to advance social and racial justice. This could be an opportunity to engage youth and there are established groups of students that can be approached.

### Housing & Economic Opportunity Subcommittee:

Gary Benjamin, Rosa Kovacevich and Reggie Evans spoke about their recent meeting that included Judge JJ Costello to discuss evictions. Their impression is that the Judge is supportive of the subcommittee's efforts, including eviction diversion, eviction defense and settlement assistance and the rental disclosure form. They plan to discuss housing code enforcement and the "Novak Report" next month with staff from the Housing Department.

### Public Safety

Robert Lampley spoke about their most recent meeting and the quarterly report that they submitted. Robert also mentioned that he has been requested to speak to the Public Safety Committee of City Council in February.

Rosa Kovacevich spoke about efforts to coordinate small scale community discussions about the community's views on the CHPD.

Robert added that the Omicron COVID-19 variant has paused Police ride-a-longs and that they will resume wants the variant has subsided.

### Closing Remarks

Chairperson Rhonda Davis Lovejoy asked Councilman Cobb if representatives of the Racial Justice Task Force could more formally participate in the Housing and Public Safety Council Committees. Councilman Cobb suggested that Rhonda reach out to Councilman Cuda since he is a member of both Council Committees.

Chief Mecklenburg announced that she will be retiring and that Captain Britton will be assuming her duties. She thanked the Task Force for their work. Captain Britton spoke briefly about the Jason West Scholarship program at the High School to promote careers in criminal justice.

### Adjournment

A motion was made by Reginald Evans to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Robert Lampley. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.