



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

**CITY COUNCIL Racial Equity, Inclusion, and  
Belonging Committee**

c/o Community & Economic Development Office

City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401

802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • [www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo)

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**Draft Minutes**

**Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, Monday, August 31st, 2020**

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM. Remote meeting via Zoom**

Present:

Councilor Ali Dieng, Chair, Ward 7

Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

Councilor Brian Pine, Ward 3

Tyeastia Green, Director Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Dept

Jordan Redell, Chief of Staff, Mayor Weinberger's Office

Marcella Gange, CEDO (Committee Staff)

Speaking at public forum or during meeting

Peggy Owens Sands

Mark Hughes, Racial Justice Alliance

Meeting came to order at 5:35pm

1. Review Agenda and Minutes

Agenda approval proposed Clr Pine (BP), second Clr Paul (KP) - unanimous  
Draft minutes approval, REIB Committee 07.29.20, proposed KP, second BP,  
unanimous.

2. Public Forum.

Peggy Owens Sands – requesting information on the City of Burlington  
Committee on Accessibility and whether the body will reactivate? Clrs. had no  
updated information on this Committee and Peggy will follow up with Jordan  
Redell.

Mark Hughes, Racial Justice Alliance thanking the Committee for its work,  
asking whether the Committee will make a statement on the current  
BLM/Black Perspective protest underway in BTV.

3. Coordination with UVM and its work on UVM REIB.

BP sent a request for participation but received no response. Will contact  
other UVM staff.

The programs and services of the City of Burlington are accessible to people with disabilities.

For accessibility information, call 865-7144. For questions about the meeting,

contact Marcella Gange at [mgange@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:mgange@burlingtonvt.gov)

#### 4. Updates from Director Green:

A) Budget – passed by Board of Finance and City Council – is working on the implementation of a learning management system for city staff training and will be bringing this back to BoF and CC in due course.

B) New positions – The application window will close on Friday of this week and has a number of strong applicants to interview. Posted the job widely, both through City and personal connections. A number of very strong applicants to interview.

C) Plan to collaborate with REIB Committee – Dir. Green would like to hear how the Committee wants to work with her Department. BP, we value your expertise, both lived experience and academic and practical experience of addressing racial equity. New committee and new department and hope to work together. KP, Committee wants to support the work of your department and welcomes joint initiatives. AD, agrees that this year's focus is on supporting the development of the new Department.

Director Green will bring progress and initiatives to the committee as and when prepared. Recommends the Committee includes time for discussion, reflection and learning, including allowing public to interact (with time limit). Committee members agreed that an Open Forum at the end of each meeting would allow for a discussion on arising issues and learning. (2 minute time limit for each speaker)

#### 5. Open Forum Discussion.

Members discussed the current Black Perspectives protest and acknowledged the right to protest, the desire to assure public safety and neighborhood needs, and the legal obstacles to further comment.

#### 6. Schedule next meeting.

The next meeting will be scheduled via email.

#### 7. Motion to adjourn BP, second KP, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM