



REIB City Council Committee

June 6, 2023 5:30 pm - 7:30pm

Sharon Bushor Room, 149 Church St, 1 Floor City Hall, Burlington VT

Attendance: Eric Agnero, Sandy Baird, Kim Carson, Phet Keomanyvanh, Sydney VanTassel, Katie Greene, Luis Calderin, Taryn Maitland, Ali Dieng, Benjamin Traverse, Christine Hughs, Wynston Longmore, Grey Barreda, Mandy McDermott, Nathan Virag, Grant Crichfield, Melo Grant

Start Time: 5:33 PM

Zoom Recording:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/YqHI9fQw5bZz2GS5-wjE0koAx2yLNvQeQKBxW5vQcsxqCII4rrZzj8nZZGI-4qJV.Lyd0JsmYCD-r2Xb2>

Passcode: f.9yT!KN

Agenda

1. Motion to approve the agenda
Councilor Traverse motions to approve agenda, Councilor Dieng seconds.
2. Motion to approve the meeting minutes [April 18, 2023](#)
Councilor Traverse motions to approve minutes, Councilor Dieng seconds.
3. Presentation - Legal Services from the Caroline Funds (see proposal attached)

Sandra Baird, Co-founder of The Caroline Fund, introduced the fund's mission of supporting vulnerable, low-income, and marginalized communities, particularly women and families facing domestic violence. Eric Agnero, Development Coordinator, requested 50k in funding to provide legal services and educational events for underserved populations. Agnero shared a video showcasing the fund's impact and discussed their partnerships with various



organizations. Baird introduced Nathan Virag, an attorney who assists immigrant families and work with the Caroline Fund. Christine Hughes proposed a partnership between The Caroline Fund and the Richard Kemp Center. Councilor Grant expressed support and raised concerns about an inflammatory photo related to the fund and policing. Council Traverse mentioned the diminishing services at Vermont Law School and suggested The Caroline Fund could fill gaps. Baird highlighted the fund's focus on pro-bono or low-bono family cases. Sandra introduced other fund members and emphasized the importance of community partnerships. Director Kim Carson inquired about long-term financial partnership and requested additional data for funding decisions. Councilor Dieng asked about collaborations, and Baird described partnerships and past initiatives. Councilor Dieng discussed the funding application process, deferring the decision to Director Carson and the REIB.

4. Juneteenth planning updates

Luis Calderin, Founder of OKAY!!OKAY!!!, provided an update on Juneteenth 2023. He highlighted achievements, such as securing talent and designing marketing assets and event merchandise. Arrested Development will be the headliner at the Flynn, as the team prioritizes ensuring safety and production quality. The BTV Market will focus on Juneteenth, and there will be a Gospel Brunch, programming invitations via Eventbrite, and a discussion with Bobby Hackney Sr. about reggae festivals in Vermont. Calderin mentioned additional events like the Supper Club, Main Street closures for sporting events, and new additions like yoga and comedy. He expressed confidence in Chocolate Thunder for security and discussed transportation options to increase access to the event. Director Carson mentioned the REIB's budget for the event and improved payment systems. The community has donated over 80k. Councilor Dieng requested an update and data at the REIB City Council Subcommittee meeting. Councilor Traverse asked how the City Council can support the event, and Director Carson suggested attending, assisting vendors through the Board of Finance, and expecting data.



5. Public Forum REIB Committee Mission Statement – Discussion and adoption

Committee decided to move discussion to next meeting.

6. REIB Department Updates

Director Carson provided updates on the REIB Department, including the ongoing reorganization. The REIB requested the Board of Finance to accept donations for the Juneteenth event and mentioned Jazz Fest events featuring All Heart Inspirations and Samara Joy, with free tickets available through the REIB. Councilor Dieng expressed support for the Flynn and REIB collaboration and thanked Phet Keomanyvanh for her work as the interim Director in Juneteenth 2022. Director Carson acknowledged Sydney VanTassel, the REIB Financial and Administrative Coordinator, for her project management role in planning Juneteenth 2023.

7. Community Forum

Christine Hughs inquired about the next Reparations Task Force meeting. Council Dieng mentioned his conversation with Task Force head Pablo Bose, who plans to continue working with UVM students before reconvening, possibly in July. Director Carson explained the delay in meetings due to internal auditing and restructuring, aiming to ensure the work aligns with community needs.

Grey Barreda, connected to the Sears Lane homeless encampment, requested support and recognition from the REIB regarding class and equity issues faced by the unhoused population. Councilor Dieng requested Barreda to present their asks and needs at the next meeting for better understanding. Director Carson outlined the REIB's collaboration with CEDO and other efforts to address houselessness, emphasizing support for vulnerable Black and Brown individuals and encouraged Barreda to discuss their concerns with the REIB outside of the meeting.



Councilor Grant inquired about the progress of the Youth and Safety Task Force. Director Carson provided an overview, including the involvement of community members and agencies, data collection on charges and convictions, and efforts to track demographic information. Councilor Grant specifically asked about data collection on press releases, and Director Carson assured her that it was a priority, intending to collaborate with the CJC and have discussions with Chief John Murad.

Councilor Traverse shared his co-chairing role with Councilor Bergman in the City Council committee responsible for exploring new models of community oversight and police accountability. He requested REIB's support in engaging with the community and maintaining transparency about the models. The committee discussed upcoming meeting topics, including the vulnerability of the unhoused, updates on the Youth and Public Safety Task Force, and Juneteenth event updates.

Committee agreed to continue to schedule the meetings every 3rd Tuesday of the month but to be flexible as the REIB faced staffing issues and a reorganization of the department. Next meeting Tuesday, July 18th at 5:30pm.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Councilor Traverse motions to adjourn at 7:23pm, Councilor Grant seconds.

Zoom information:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/96046343518>

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