

## Recap of the Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting September 5, 2018

September 5, 2018 Hillsborough County Diversity Advisory Council meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Perry. Members present: Chair Perry, Yvette Jones, Reham Fared, Vijay Deshpande, Sabah Uddin, Jennifer Shiver, Alvin Jin, David McCallister, and Terrence Kemple. Members absent: Marta Pearson (Notified), Sean Colin (Did not Notify), Jermaine White (Did not Notify), Conchita Burpee (Did not Notify), Mathew Chernesky (Notified) and Sabrina Griffith (Notified). There was a quorum present. Staff present: Tony Morejon, Office of Community Affairs, Carmen LoBue, Office of Community Affairs, Albert Coleman, EOA/Office of Community Affairs.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Becki Forsell came and spoke to the group regarding the YES Fair. Ms. Leanne Devat spoke regarding what she's doing in the community, she works with the Underground Network, which is a non-profit, there are about 250 micro-churches throughout the Tampa Bay area that are faith based. She discussed all of the programs that are involved with the group. There is a group of men that are prostitutes and there are no shelters for them. The name of the group that Ms. Devat is a part of is called Unashamed.

**Old Business: Approval of August 1, 2018 Meeting Recap:** A motion was made by Mr. McCallister to approve August 1, 2018 meeting recap. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fared. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

### **New Business:**

**Introduction of New Members:** Sabah Uddin and Vijay Deshpande

**Voting for Vice Chair:** Chair Perry opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. McCallister nominated Marta Pearson. Ms. Fared nominated herself. The voting will be tabled for next month's meeting.

### **Old Business:**

**Sensory Friendly Shelter Discussion:** Ms. Shiver presented a one page proposal which will be presented to the BOCC once it is reviewed and approved. Ted Williams, Ryan Pedigo, and John Newman, Head of Security for the School Board are all in on this. Mr. Newman provided four schools that would be available. Mr. Pedigo stated that this would be the first Sensory Friendly Shelter in the nation. Any information or edits to the proposal, please e-mail Zuleyka Carbajal.

Chair Perry spoke regarding the African-American and Hispanic communities and mental health issues. How can there be better service provided to the community. He suggested forming a subcommittee to discuss this issue. Mr. Deshpande suggested inviting a County agency to come in and speak on mental health and then maybe forming the subcommittee. Mr. Morejon asked if this only African-American and Hispanic issue or is it social economic? Ms. Shiver responded that it is everywhere. It is a major issue. Mr. Morejon suggested having an open forum for many people to come out and speak about it. The issue will be placed on the agenda for next month for discussion. Ms. Jones stated she would co-chair and Chair Perry would assist. Ms. Shiver suggested that the LGBTQ community also be involved.

A motion was made by Mr. McCallister to participate in the YES Fair, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jones. ***Motion carried unanimously.*** Ms. Jones volunteered to set up the table.

**Introduction of New Staff:** Mr. Morejon announced that Ellie Rodriguez, Assistant to Commissioner Higginbotham is going to take Mr. Morejon's position when he retires in October.

**Announcements:** Mr. McCallister stated that he attended the BOCC meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kemple wants to remind everyone to register to vote, the last day is October 9<sup>th</sup>. You can register online.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 7:48 pm by Chair Perry.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.