

SPC24-16 Lynn Maloney - The Race and Equity Forum held in May and future conversations.

Ms. Maloney stated the City had hosted a Race and Equity Forum on May 3, 2016 in fulfillment of one of the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence. The public announcement for the forum had described this event as the beginning of many other conversations about race and equity the City would host. In consultation with African Americans that had served on the City's 1996 Race Relations Task Force along with others that had worked for equity within Columbia Public Schools, several suggestions were made to improve the effectiveness of future discussions about race and equity. One suggestion was to include those most adversely affected by social equity issues in the planning process. She noted one attendee had suggested "she be allowed to choose the music so she could dance," and an African American veteran of many city diversity events had referred to himself as a "token" of the City and had suggested the planning include at least one Black Methodist church, one Black Baptist Church, and one black secular organization. She commented that future discussions would more likely attract a better representation of African Americans if they were held at venues that belonged to the African American community, such as the Second Baptist Church, St. Paul AME, or the Youth Empowerment Zone. She noted the people she had spoken with had cited a lack of specificity and detail. The forum had focused on a poverty simulation that had been offered to teachers, but there was a lack of data regarding the racial disparities in the school system. She believed this lack of detail created a lack of confidence in the intention held by those hosting the forum. She suggested an action-oriented agenda be created as the lack of action had been cited by attendees as a source of frustration. Learning about poverty simulations and volunteer efforts outside of City government did not encourage the attendees to believe the City had any earnest intentions to act. She suggested the City be explicit in the objectives and goals of future conversations as there had been a lack of any clear intention or objective for the forum. She understood some felt the forum was held to only superficially satisfy the recommendation of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence. She suggested the City earn the trust of the African American community by including those five considerations when planning future conversations about social equity. She reiterated the five suggestions, which were included in a handout provided after the meeting, and hoped the City would act on those suggestions to create something new and to earn the trust of the African American community.

SPC25-16 Kevin D. Everett - A request for the city council to consider policy to improve enforcement of current tobacco policies.

Mr. Everett, 4107 Joslyn Court, provided a handout and explained he was a strong advocate for healthy living and to help to improve the health of individuals. He noted the City had enabled some best practice policies to reduce tobacco prevalence over the years, and asked the Council to consider requiring retail licenses to sell tobacco products as another policy, which was a recommendation of the Healthy Lifestyles Committee as well. He understood some people had already begun to look into the issue of how to make such a policy feasible.

SPC26-16 Tim Vicente - Opposition to proposed roundabout at Green Meadows Boulevard and Forum Boulevard.

Mr. Vicente explained he was representing the Country Club Villas 2 and Villas 1 Homeowners Association and the Green Meadows Daycare Center, which was located on the corner of Forum Boulevard and Green Meadows Road, and noted they were in opposition of a proposed roundabout at the Forum Boulevard and Green Meadows Road intersection. He understood those in support of roundabouts tended to refer to roundabouts working well in Europe, but noted this was not Europe. The roundabouts in