

## Community Equity Advisory Council

Summary of session 2021 – 05 – 18

### Meeting Summary

#### **Council members**

Present: Tiffany Carter, Majeid Crawford, Norma Garcia, Oscar Grande, Mahsa Hakimi, Raquel Redondiez (first part of the meeting), Del Seymour, Mary Travis-Allen, Ben Wong.

Absent: Lara Kiswani.

Facilitator: Mary Travis-Allen

**Staff:** Tameeka Bennett, Miriam Chion, Rich Hillis, Deborah Sanders (first part of the meeting)

**Topic:** This was the first session of the Community Equity Advisory Council. It was focused on getting to know each other, defining the common ground for difficult dialogues, and sharing perspectives on the harms experienced by communities of color and the paths towards real solutions.

#### **1. Introductions** – First image or memory of San Francisco

- The love and womb of my mother when I was born at the San Francisco General Hospital
- The streets of San Francisco from my stroller
- The Cow Palace and how I thought it was only for cows
- Black drivers at the airport and a Jim-Crow city
- Water fountain on Market Street
- Female Chinese cop directing traffic
- Golden Gate Bridge and diverse people in a film casting session
- Vibrant Black communities in Bayview, Fillmore, Lakeview
- Deadheads gathering at Haight and Ashbury
- Vistas and divides from Garfield School's hill
- Excelsior and Mission Streets and Geneva Drive-In

#### **2. Common ground**

- Speak your truth and allow others to speak theirs
- Judgement into curiosity
- Ask the hard questions
- Intentional listening
- Experience discomfort
- We disagree with ideas and what's spoken, not people
- No one knows everything, but together we know a lot
- Proactivity to ensure transparency

### 3. Growing forward together Discussion

#### Questions

1. What harms do you feel your communities have suffered with the development of the city over time? How have our historic and current policies pushed communities of color and low-income communities out of the city and constrained access to housing, jobs, and health?
2. How can we begin building trust in our communities while making changes in our government policies and institutions?

#### Discussion Summary:

- **Invisible communities:** Many of our communities are invisible to our city, to White people, to our economy. Many people don't know what American Indians look like. The American Indian community had to challenge the City even on the counting of its population, changing the number from 0.3 to 1.1 percent. People of color in the gay community are non-existent. Black people are not present in many jobs (construction, financial), in many neighborhoods (Sunset, Richmond). The middle-income young black people are dismissed. Even in supposedly 'successful' Asian and gay communities, the number of extremely low-income Chinese in Chinatown are not recognized and people of color have no art expressions in the Castro. We also wondered where the Asian community fits in this conversation.
- **The city doesn't love me back:** We give so much to the city, we organize people, we support our youth and elders, we do many jobs. We love the city so much, but the city doesn't love us back. We don't recognize the city where we grew up, the city where makers and bakers could rent or buy a house in San Francisco, a city with black people in Fillmore. Families, workers and middle-income people are pushed out of the city because they cannot afford the rent or buy a house. San Francisco gave birth to the Anti-Chinese movement and our low-income Chinese in Chinatown are at risk of displacement today.
- **Planning doesn't connect with people:** Planning is boring. Who is studying urban planning? We are not represented nor validated in this field. Future generations have no room in planning. We were arrested at Planning because we spoke about our traumas.
- **We are here to act and to change:** We are not here to just talk. We are tired of telling stories of traumas without response. We don't want to have one more meeting to just talk. We are tired of talking about harm, we want to talk about solutions. We need new policies that bring something new that can work, we need structural changes, and we need to challenge the legal structure. We need race-based policies. We need to see support from Supervisors and the Mayor. Our work should include the following tasks:
  - Addressing economic equity is essential; we need jobs and wealth building for our communities
  - We need to bring people back
  - We need to retain families and open opportunities for youth.
  - We need to address very pressing issues like the upcoming eviction cliff
  - Make space for middle-income families and young people