

# SYSTEMIC RACISM REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 20, 2024 at 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar



<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/92303909454> or: 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 923 0390 9454

A. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Froehlich called the Systemic Racism Review Committee to order at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

B. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – read by Chair Froehlich

We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. Gunalchéesh!

C. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ephraim Froehlich, Jennifer Pemberton, Ivan Nance, and AnaVera Morato

**Absent:** John Drips, and Kelli Patterson

**Staff/Others:** Robert Barr, Beth McEwen, and Nicole Lynch

D. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – agenda approved as presented.

E. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – minutes approved as presented.

1. **April 23, 2024 SRRC Worksession Meeting Minutes – Draft**

F. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - None

G. **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following ordinances were up for introduction on the consent agenda at [Monday night's Regular Assembly Meeting](#). A blank SRRC checklist is included in the packet if an ordinance is pulled for further discussion and committee members want to utilize that tool.

## **Recommended Motions:**

*"I move to approve the consent agenda as presented and ask for unanimous consent" OR "I move to approve the consent agenda as amended and ask for unanimous consent": [use this motion when items are pulled off consent for further discussion]*

2. **Legislation for Review by SRRC**

[Ordinance 2024-20](#) An Ordinance Amending the Parking Requirements of the Land Use Code by Extending the No Parking Requirements Area to Include the Telephone Hill Area. [2024-20 Exhibit A](#)

[Ordinance 2024-01\(b\)\(E\)](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$547,353 to the Manager for the Airport Runway Safety Area Shoulder Grading Capital Improvement Project; Funding Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant and Passenger Facility Charge Fees.

[Ordinance 2024-01\(b\)\(F\)](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$1,017,116 to the Manager for the Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Truck Capital Improvement Project; Funding Provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant, Airport Revolving Funds, and Airport Funds.

[Ordinance 2024-01\(b\)\(J\)](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$35,025 to the Manager for a Grant to St. Vincent de Paul; Funding Provided by General Funds.

[Ordinance 2024-04\(b\)\(D\)](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$50,000 to the Manager for a Civic Engagement and Communications Strategy; Funding Provided by General Funds.

Mr. Barr read the ordinances for review by the SRRC into the record and provided an overview of each piece of legislation.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Pemberton to pull Ordinance 2024-01(b)(J) and Ordinance 2024-04(b)(D) for further discussion and adopt the consent agenda as amended. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

## H. LEGISLATION PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

Legislation pulled from the consent agenda during the meeting for further discussion, questions or to walk through the SRRC checklist on a particular piece of legislation.

### **Sample Motions:**

*"I move to forward Ordinance xxxx-xx (or Resolution xxxx) to the full Assembly as presented and ask for unanimous consent" OR "I move the SRRC recommend to the Assembly it {fill in the recommendation} prior to taking action on proposed legislation."*

Ms. Pemberton said she pulled this ordinance to give kudos to CBJ for their ability to make an exception for those occasions that warrant it. She was impressed with Ordinance 2024-01(b)(J) and thought that this unwritten policy by the City to provide for equity and generosity and allow for that leniency to non-profit partners within CBJ regarding late filing of non-profit property tax was a good thing.

**MOTION:** Ms. Pemberton to move Ordinance 2024-01(b)(J) to the full Assembly for action and asked for unanimous consent. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

Regarding Ordinance 2024-04(b)(D), Ms. Pemberton asked who would be leading the strategy and how they would go about procuring that plan.

Mr. Barr provided information about staff engagement with The Cedar Group and discussed how they might be able to go with a broader discussion on community engagement. The general goal is that CBJ communicates in a lot of different ways, primarily through information releases (IR's), social media, and engaging with the media. We hear regularly from the public that they are just not getting what they need from us in a way that is useful for people to learn about whatever it is that we are doing that is interesting to them. He said we struggle with this a lot for a lot of different reasons. The work that CBJ does is so broad and there are such a vast number of entities that report to or through the Assembly range from the hospital, emergency disaster, Parks & Recreation, Eaglecrest, Airport, etc. This is working with a professional consultant to find some best practices and make recommendations on how CBJ might be able to do better regarding communications.

Mr. Barr noted that CBJ has limited resources with one Full-Time Public Information Officer position, who is involved in this project, and some, but not all, departments have one individual who has "communications" as "other duties as assigned" as part of their duties. Part of what we are hoping for is to see how other communities are doing it and how CBJ compares.

Mr. Nance asked about the origins of the \$50,000 figure. Mr. Barr said that it was somewhat informed by consultants who do this work. He said that they could easily spend more, they were trying to find a way to do this through money the city already had in a CIP that would be available to transfer to this project. \$50,000 is enough to get started and it could potentially cost more, and staff may have to request more from the Assembly.

The Hut to Hut CIP that had been requested by former Manager Rorie Watt for the first planning stages for a series of huts on Douglas Island so people could go on multi-day hiking trips going Hut to Hut is the CIP funds are being transferred from.

Included in the process will be some level of focus on communications with or to traditionally marginalized communities. The committee asked how they can make sure that is the case.

The committee discussed and came up with the following language from the SRRC to be added to the Managers Report for Ordinance 2024-04(b)(D) when it is next before the Assembly:

*"As the city moves forward with the creation of a civic engagement/communications strategy, the SRRC strongly encourages staff and contractors to specifically and clearly include a strategy directed at traditionally marginalized communities in Juneau. The SRRC intends to do its own review of CBJ protocols surrounding outreach to the various marginalized communities about optimize boards and commission vacancies/involvement."*

Mr. Vance said that sounded reasonable and relates to the issue they were hoping to communicate to the marginalized communities about service on CBJ Boards and Commissions.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Pemberton to move Ordinance 2024-04(b)(D) to the full Assembly for action with the following comments from the SRRC to the Assembly: *"As the city moves forward with the creation of a civic engagement/communications strategy, the SRRC strongly encourages staff and contractors to specifically and clearly include a strategy directed at traditionally marginalized communities in Juneau. The SRRC intends to do its own review of CBJ protocols surrounding outreach to the various marginalized communities about optimizing boards and commission vacancies/involvement."* And asked for unanimous consent. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

I. **STANDING AGENDA TOPIC** - from 8/6/2024 SRRC Worksession which was cancelled due to the Assembly holding a Special Assembly Meeting related to the 8/6 Mendenhall River Flood event

**3. SRRC Discussion on CBJ Board Recruitment & Diversity**

[CBJ board directory](#)

[CBJ board application](#)

[CBJ Boards/Committees Webpage](#)

[CBJ advisory board pamphlet](#)

Mr. Froehlich will ask Ms. Cathcart to send a doodle poll to committee members for availability to hold a worksession. Ms. Pemberton asked about a timeline for recruitment of new members and if that is on-going. Ms. McEwen noted the Clerk's Office has been advertising for the SRRC vacancies as well as the other board/committee vacancies and reminded the committee the best recruitment tool is word of mouth and/or committee members inviting someone they are aware of in the community that would be a good addition to the SRRC.

**J. STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Barr provided a brief update on the flood status and provided a recap of some of the items discussed at the August 19 Assembly meeting. Mr. Barr explained that the flood topic will take up a lot of bandwidth by the Assembly and staff over the next few months and while it has been a bit all consuming, we don't want to lose sight of the other issues happening within CBJ.

Mr. Nance watched the Assembly meeting and was concerned that there was not much of anything that was done in between last year's flood and this year's event. Also, it is not clear on what can be done moving forward or if there was a contingency plan in the works for next year potential flooding.

Mr. Barr responded to Mr. Nance's question that there was some action taken between 2023 and 2024 to monitor and understand the jökulhlaup. There was additional monitoring equipment installed and UAS and NWS partners were better able to forecast and made inundation maps were refined. There is a natural desire for us and anyone to do whatever is possible to mitigate and/or prevent, there was not a lot that we could conceivably do from a mitigation standpoint. Conceptually the various agencies working together came up with a number of

ideas, but they also will have many challenges to have any of these come to fruition. We now have two data points in a row of two record breaking events. It is still hard to know practically how they might be able to mitigate any of these to turn ideas into reality. Mr. Barr said that all the asks that were made of the Assembly last year were consented to and funded. Last night, the Assembly did have the letter in front of them about the request to the Federal Government for a joint agency working group.

Ms. Morato stated that, as someone that was greatly impacted by the floods, the more information CBJ and partner agencies can share with eh community, the better. There is no such thing as too much information on this sort of topic.

Ms. Pemberton said there are only three other communities in the world that are living in this type of geological scenario. It is a really new and complicated thing that a lot of people are trying to wrap their heads around. It goes back to the question of communications. Anything that we as the SRRC can do to help at the city level since these flooding events are impacting our marginalized community members within the Mendenhall Valley. CBJ continuing to work on communication strategies will help.

**K. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS - None**

**L. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Regular SRRC for Legislation Review - September 24, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar

Stand by for potential doodle for Worksession.

**M. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - None**

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.*