

# SYSTEMIC RACISM REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKSESSION MINUTES

August 29, 2023 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

Vice Chair Froehlich called the Systemic Racism Review Committee Worksession to order at 12:04 p.m. Chair Lee arrived at 12:06 p.m.

## B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the people of this land, the Auk Kwáan and Taku Kwáan. 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:** Chair Grace Lee, Ephraim Froehlich, Ivan Nance, Kelli Patterson, Jennifer Pemberton and AnaVera Morato

**Absent:** Gail Cheney

**Staff/Other:** Robert Barr, Nicole Lynch, Di Cathcart, 'Wáahlaal Gídaag

## D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

## E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved as presented.

### 1. 2023-08-22 Systemic Racism Review Committee Minutes - Draft

## F. AGENDA TOPICS

### 2. Revised SRRC Checklist

Revised Checklist for Legislation Review (w/ changes highlighted in RED)

Original Checklist as Comparison

The committee will need to decide if creating a checklist as an additional tool for reviewing and making recommendations on the deeper topic(s) they will be looking at will be helpful and if so, begin to create that checklist.

Chair Lee noted there were several items the committee wanted to discuss at today's meeting and hoped that committee members had a chance to review some of the resources provided by staff. Chair Lee summarized the discussion regarding modifying the current checklist or creating a separate checklist for cases that are policy oriented and not specifically ordinance oriented and asked for committee members thoughts or if anyone disagreed with any of the changes that were made.

Ms. Pemberton, not having been on the committee when the checklist was created and had been utilized, she asked for some background on why the 'maybe' column was added and if there were any examples of ordinances the committee tried to evaluate in the past that may have prompted this change.

Chair Lee, when we previously had the checklist, there were ordinances in which there was concern about the underlying policy rather than the specific ordinance. For example, any ordinance that had to do with the sale of land to another party, there were questions as to whether there were offers made for it to be sold back to the tribe or informed of the sale. There were also questions regarding public process on how the public is notified of these types of transactions or ordinances coming forward. The committee thought it would be good to look at the policies regarding land transfer. From that discussion we created the 'maybe' column and then thought of having a separate checklist to look at those types of policy issues., so the Assembly knows we're not actually flagging the specific issue we're flagging the policies that are underlying it. Ms. Pemberton asked if, in addition to adding the maybe column to flag things that are underlying policy, the committee is also talking about expanding the scope of this group to figure out how to address policies. Chair Lee noted that several months back the committee worked with the Assembly to expand the committee's charge to be able to review existing laws and policies and that is the process we are now working through.

Mr. Barr noted the Assembly doesn't need to approve this revised checklist since there are no significantly substantive changes however if the committee creates a new checklist for reviewing policy, that checklist would go before the Assembly for final approval.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Patterson to adopt the new checklist as amended and asked for unanimous consent. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

### **3. State & National Resources Related to Systemic Racism**

First Alaskans Institute [website](#) [resources page](#)

Advancing Native Dialogues on Racial Equity ([ANDORE](#))

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Alaska Chapter [resources page](#)

Local & Regional Government Alliance Race & Equity - [website](#) [resources page](#)

Racial Equity Tools - [website](#)

National Justice Juvenile Network - [training/resources webpage](#) [PDF on Anti-Racism Organizational Assessments](#)

Combating Racism Through Research, Training, Practice, and Public Health Policies - [CDC Article](#)

US Census Bureau - [Alaska Profile](#)

Race Forward [website](#) [resources/toolkits](#)

### **4. Outlining Next Steps & Choosing Topic(s) of Interest for SRRC to Start to Review**

Links and helpful resources to CBJ webpages the SRRC has expressed interest in taking a deeper look at:

CBJ Budget [Webpage](#)

CBJ Municipal Elections [Webpage](#)

Juneau Police Dept. [Webpage](#) and [Policies](#)

Community Development Dept./Planning Commission [Webpage](#) with links to various CBJ [Plans/Studies](#) & other helpful resources

Engineering/Public Works Dept. [Webpage](#) another helpful resource

CBJ Lands Division [Webpage](#)

CBJ Home Rule [Charter](#)

CBJ Code of [Ordinances and Resolutions](#)

The committee held discussion on creating a list of which policies or topics they would like to review and settled on five items: housing, land transfers, budget, public transportation, and police policies. In trying to decide which topic to tackle first, Mr. Froehlich noted that ordinances related to land transfers has been a repeating item the committee has flagged as a concern.

Chair Lee asked committee members if there were other policies members might be interested in reviewing. Ms. Pemberton commented that when she thinks about systemic racism and some of the problems that are at the root of other problems she thinks about the diversity of the people in power. She would be interested in the city's hiring policies and the make-up of city staff since these are the people writing ordinances.

Mr. Froehlich, previously we have discussed in some depth the policies and outreach around boards and commissions and the lack of diversity therein. How CBJ can increase engagement from traditionally marginalized communities in Juneau. Boards and committees is where your average Juneau resident has an opportunity to engage with the city and those opportunities are largely not accessed by people of color. There are issues of diversity and access to decision making positions within CBJ that we could address.

Mr. Nance stated that he had created a list based off review of the Assembly Goals. One of the main goals is housing, a major issue in this community, and people's economic status or abilities. Other stated goals include tourism, cruise ships and how it impacts the economy and society. Mr. Nance said he will organize his list and forward it to the committee for review.

Chair Lee asked committee members which topic they would like to start with, perhaps diversity within city staff or boards might be a good starting point, or police policy or public transportation since each of those are one policy vs. the budget. Ms. Patterson suggested starting with transportation or land transfers since that topic keeps coming up within the committee. Ms. Morato agreed with Ms. Patterson about land transfers.

Due to time constraints, Chair Lee recommended the committee choose a topic at the next meeting and requested staff add that as an agenda item and to include the Assembly's goals in the next SRRC agenda packet.

#### **G. STAFF REPORTS**

None

#### **H. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Assemblymember 'Wáahlaal Gídaag stated she is excited to listen to the process SRRC is starting and appreciate the new members and their input.

#### **I. NEXT MEETING DATE**

*Committee to determine worksession dates for September/October*

September 12, 2023 @ 12pm via Zoom - Regular SRRC Meeting

October 24, 2023 @ 12pm via Zoom - Regular SRRC Meeting

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.