

BLUE RIBBON EQUITABLE TASK FORCE ACTION MINUTES - THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:17 pm by Chuck Maurer.

1. **Roll Call:** Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Kwamilele, Swafford, Williams, and Wanzo were present. Ortega and Oke arrived at 6:40 pm. Katz and Tsai were absent. There was a quorum.

Staff Member Muarer noted that Task Force Member Moncada-Konte resigned from the Task Force.

Discussion held pertaining to how the Council Member who had selected Moncada-Konte had been advised she had resigned and could choose another person to serve.

2. **Public Comment** – No speakers.
3. **Speaker: Barbara Leslie, President/CEO of Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce**

Barbara Leslie provided a brief background about herself. She provided the history of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce. She noted who and what was involved in the city-wide coalition; reviewed their take on the business license tax; reviewed the objectives that had been discussed regarding the business license tax; reviewed the city's business ecosystem and addressed a prior tax force's survey.

Discussion held concerning what the Chamber considered a small business.

4. Calendar & Tentative Schedule

Staff Member Dang presented the remainder of the schedule for the Task Force. He noted the dates the Task Force would need to make their recommendations by, so that Staff would have enough time to write the reports and have them ready to be presented at the October Council meeting.

Discussion held regarding how the recommendations would not have to be presented at any committee meeting prior to Council.

5. Ad Hoc Committee Updates:

- A. Committee A – Job Quality & Employment – Staff Member Maurer noted only one Task Force member was in attendance – so no report.
- B. Committee B – Business Mobility, Real Estate, Attraction & Retention reviewed a model they had discussed. They discussed rates based on

businesses mobility. They felt construction, utility and hotel/motel had the least mobility and could sustain a higher increase.

Discussion held relating to how the tax increase to utility businesses would be passed on to residents.

- C. Committee C – Tax Categories & Implementation – reviewed the model they had come up with which was progressive. They felt all Oakland businesses should contribute on some level; define business and look at business mobility.

Discussion held regarding the possibility of being able to see all the proposals next to each other.

Discussion held concerning how the multiplier was being used in all the proposed models.

6. Staff Updates

- A. Tax Modeling – discussion of tax scenarios (Cont.).

Discussion held concerning what the city was doing to attract businesses to move to the city.

Discussion held pertaining to how most businesses leased their buildings and did not own them.

Discussion held regarding a request for what the scope and format for the Task Force's recommendation would need to look like. Staff noted they would address it at next meeting.

Request was made for the Task Force to receive the information that Barbara Leslie had presented/spoke about.

7. Open Forum

Mike Eng questioned who had appointed Task Force Member Konte. Was advised it was Council Member Fife.

8. Adjournment

Margaret adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Next meeting will be July 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm.