

City of Fresno Youth Commission – Minutes – Final
Town Hall

Date: Friday, July 12, 2019

Location: Fresno City Hall – Room 2165A

1. 5:13 P.M. Call to Order

The Town Hall was co-hosted with the organization Boys and Men of Color (BMoC).

2. Roll Call

Present: 6 – Secretary Gabriela Martinez (CD 6), Commissioner Jesus Lopez* (Mayor’s Office), Commissioner Daniel Galvan* (CD 3), Commissioner Alyssa Villegas* (CD 4), Commissioner Luis Guzman (CD 4), and Commissioner Adriana Reyes* (CD 5)

Absent: 1 – 2nd Vice Chair Citlali Palma* (CD 6)

Vacancies: 9 – Voting seats and alternate seats for CD 1, CD 2, and CD 7; alternate seats for CD 3, CD 5, Mayor’s Office

Secretary Martinez announced that Chair Antonio Jauregui* (Mayor's Office) and Sergeant of Arms Kyra Vang (CD 5) had officially resigned from the Commission. She also welcomed Commissioner Jesus Lopez to the Commission.

Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Program Coordinator Jose Espinoza added that Kyra Vang had been accepted to a summer program at UC Merced, and Antonio Jauregui would be moving to Southern California to attend Cal Poly Pomona. He stated that the Mayor’s Office had selected Jesus Lopez as a new commissioner.

In the absence of 2nd Vice Chair Citlali Palma, Secretary Martinez exercised voting rights and led the Town Hall.

CD = Council District

Asterisk (*) = Voting Member

3. Review & Approve Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Villegas, seconded by Commissioner Galvan, that the agenda for July 12, 2019 be approved. Passed 5-0.

Ayes - 5: Galvan, Lopez, Martinez, Reyes, Villegas

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 0: None

4. Presentations / Workshops / Action Items Presentation, Interactive Workshops, Discussion and Actions Pertaining to the Selection of the New City of Fresno Police Chief

A. Introduction/Purpose of Town Hall

Commissioner Galvan and BMoC Junior Adult Ally Adrien Fergusson opened the Town Hall. Commissioner Galvan stated that the purpose of the Town Hall was to provide a space for youth to express their thoughts and opinions in regards to the selection of the new chief of police.

B. Ice Breaker - Comfort Corners to Create a Safe Space to Express Youth Voices

Program Coordinator Espinoza stated that the comments expressed by those attending would be given to the City Council and Mayor's Office and used in consideration of the selection of the new chief of police.

BMoC Youth Leader Ronnie Lopez introduced the comfort corners activity. He asked the Commissioners and the public to participate. He made various statements and the participants were asked to go to the corner that they felt most accurately reflected how they felt about that statement: agree, strongly agree, disagree, strongly disagree, and neutral. They were to discuss why they chose that particular corner, and share with the other participants.

The purpose of the activity was to create a safe space for youth to share their thoughts. Statements included: Avengers: End Game is the best movie of all time; I have influence over someone; and my voice has been heard in my community.

Program Coordinator Espinoza summarized the activity and stated that change typically happened when numerous people spoke-up and that the Fresno Youth Commission was the highest platform in the City of Fresno for youth to express their voice to City officials.

C. Community Agreements to Foster Respectful Dialogue

Adult Ally Adrien Fergusson explained that community agreements would be used to run the workshop. The agreements discussed and agreed upon by the Commission and all participants included "one mic" (one person holds the floor and everyone listens), respect the comments of others, no side conversations/discussions, and no phone use.

D. Group Workshops and Discussion (Sharing), Including Reviewing City of Fresno Police Chief Survey Questions E. Fresno Youth Commission Actions pertaining to the Selection of the New City of Fresno Police Chief

The Commission and the public split into four groups. Each individual filled out the survey and shared their responses within their group. Each group then shared the group responses with the entire commission. The four survey questions were:

What are the challenges in the City that you would like the new Police Chief to address? Responses to question one included: better enforcement of policies, decrease response times, and provide mentorship opportunities between police officers and youth.

What are the challenges in the City that you would like the new Police Chief to address? Responses to question two included: underage drinking, aggressive policing, and possession of drugs in schools.

What are the challenges in the City that you would like the new Police Chief to address? Responses to question three included: someone who values youth voices and is welcoming, someone who is educated in regards to the diverse groups that exist in the City of Fresno, and someone who has experience with low-income and violent areas.

Is there anything else the City Manager should consider when selecting the next Police Chief? Responses to question four included: hiring someone who is willing to confront corruption in the police department, hiring someone who is open to speaking out against racism and racial profiling, and hiring someone who has good judgement.

Using the comments gathered from the public, the commissioners crafted a letter to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager. Through consensus the commission directed Coordinator Espinoza to edit the draft letter and send it to city officials. They also decided to reach out to their respective councilmembers to discuss comments the commission received at the Town Hall.

On motion of Commissioner Reyes, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, the Fresno Youth Commission approves a formal letter to City officials in regards to the selection of the new chief of police. Passed 5-0.

Ayes - 5: Galvan, Lopez, Martinez, Reyes, Villegas

Noes - 0: None

Absent - 0: None

5. Public Comments

No public comments made.

6. Adjournment

Through consensus, Secretary Martinez adjourned the meeting at 7:36 P.M.