

# EXECUTIVE BRIEF REGULAR MEETING

**AGENDA DATE:** June 16, 2020

**DEPARTMENT:** Commission

**TITLE:**

Creating a Task Force to make recommendations to the City Commission on the issue of eradicating systemic racism in the City of Lake Worth Beach

**SUMMARY:**

After much consideration and deliberation, Commissioner Robinson has drafted a list of issues he would like a City Task Force (consisting of 5 committees) to address regarding systemic racism in the City of Lake Worth Beach.

**BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:**

In an effort to discuss issues raised in the recent, senseless death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, Commissioner Robinson, at the June 2, 2020 Commission Meeting, requested a special meeting to discuss creating a task force to make recommendations to the City Commission on the issue of eradicating systemic racism in the City of Lake Worth Beach. Commissioner Maxwell made a motion that Commissioner Robinson bring back in writing an outline of how he would like to see a workshop on the issue conducted. In preparing for this meeting, Commissioner Robinson met with Commissioner Hardy at a "Sunshine Meeting" and discussed issues of concern, including reform to policing in the city and furthering racial equity in the city. There was considerable public comment at the June 8, 2020 Sunshine Meeting. Below is an outline of the Task Force creation issues Commissioner Robinson would like the entire Commission to discuss at a special meeting.

**OUTLINE OF ISSUES TO DISCUSS RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE:**

- A. Timeframe: Task Force members should be chosen in the next 30 days as time is of the essence.
- B. Composition: The Task Force should consist of diverse community stakeholders in the city. May include 10-20 individuals, some of whom will represent organizations. The City Commission should discuss who those stakeholders will be, how many members will the Task Force include, and whether the Task Force should include commission members.
- C. Scope of work: The Task Force will be empowered to make recommendations for eradicating systemic racism in the City of Lake Worth Beach. The scope should be addressed by five committees with deadlines being established for each part as shown below:
  - **Police Committee** to make recommendations on policing in Lake Worth Beach to reach the goal of eradicating systemic racism. The Task Force committee should be given 90 days to identify issues, research, review, and make written recommendations. The issues

would include reviewing the current contract with PBSO and addressing the need for body cameras, enhanced and targeted training for officers including de-escalation tools, police accountability, etc.

- **Education Committee** to make recommendations to the School District as it relates to its policies in education that lead to systemic racism in the school system. The Task Force would again identify issues, research, review, and make written recommendations within a specific timeframe.
- **Housing Committee** to make recommendations about rental assistance for families who have fallen behind on their rent or for legal counsel for families facing eviction due to financial hardships.
- **Health and Human Services Committee** to make recommendations on strategies and policies to deal with racial equity in the criminal justice system with a focus on how the City of Lake Worth Beach can contribute to the solutions.
- **Financial Security Committee** to make recommendations on providing racial equity in banking and lending for minorities (personal and business lending practices), developing mechanisms to assist minorities in taking advantage of banking institutions newly established racial equity funds (e.g., Goldman Sachs), etc.

There are a myriad of important and necessary issues the Task Force Committees could address as illustrated by the above examples. Commissioner Robinson looks forward to having a constructive dialogue with his colleagues.

**MOTION:**

Motion to set a special meeting to create a Task Force (with five committees) to make recommendations to the City Commission on the issue of eradicating systemic racism in the City of Lake Worth Beach.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Fiscal Impact Analysis N/A