

Memo

To: Common Council

From: John Weidl, City Manager

Date: June 4, 2025

Subject: Recommendation to Dissolve the Community Involvement and Cable TV Commission and Transfer Duties to the Equal Opportunities Commission

Background

The Community Involvement and Cable TV Commission was established under Municipal Code §2.50.050 to advise the City of Whitewater on coordinated community outreach, civic engagement strategies, and the effective use of media such as cable television to enhance cultural, educational, health, and civic participation across the community. Its responsibilities also included feedback on community involvement plans and the recruitment process for the Public Relations and Communications Manager.

In recent years, the duties of the CICTV Commission have increasingly overlapped with the mission and purpose of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) as outlined in Municipal Code §2.44.120. The EOC is committed to making Whitewater a welcoming, inclusive, and affirming city, with a broad mandate to improve civic life and eliminate discrimination in areas such as education, employment, and public accommodations.

Recommendation

Per the legal counsel provided by City Attorney Calouette, and after review of the evolving responsibilities of both commissions, it is recommended that the Community Involvement and Cable TV Commission be formally dissolved. The essential duties and goals of the CICTV Commission would not be lost, but rather consolidated into the scope of the Equal Opportunities Commission through the adoption of an ordinance amending §2.44 of the municipal code.

This reorganization will streamline civic engagement and equity-related functions under one comprehensive and strategically focused body. The integration is logical and efficient, given that the EOC's current purpose includes fostering inclusive community practices, addressing systemic disparities, and advising on strategies to ensure broad participation in city processes.

Proposed Action

1. Adopt an ordinance dissolving the Community Involvement and Cable TV Commission.
2. Amend §2.44.120 to incorporate the following CICTV responsibilities into the Equal Opportunities Commission's scope:
 - Advising the city on community outreach and engagement strategies.
 - Promoting equitable civic participation in city decision-making.

Justification

This action is consistent with the city's long-term goals of:

- Enhancing civic engagement;
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- Aligning communication, outreach, and inclusion strategies under one empowered commission.

Next Steps

Upon approval by the Common Council:

- The Community Involvement and Cable TV Commission will be officially dissolved.
- All current members of the CICTV Commission will be formally notified of this change.
- Members will be invited to continue their service on the Equal Opportunities Commission should they wish to remain engaged in this important civic work.
- Staff will prepare and present the necessary ordinance language for adoption and ensure the transition of duties, records, and engagement strategies to the EOC is implemented seamlessly.

Best-



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