

Cuyahoga County Equity Commission Meeting
 June 17, 2021 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
 Virtual Zoom Meeting
 Minutes

Cuyahoga County Equity Commission		
Last Name	First Name	Agency
Marshall	Sheba	Human Resources
Drucker	Jesse	Human Resources
Lockett	Lenora	Procurement and Diversity
Herdeg	Paul	Development
Merriman	David	Health and Human Services
Guests		
Morales	Cari	Development
Carroll	Matt	County Executive Administration
Harris	Leon	Health and Human Services
Roberts	Sabrina	Health and Human Services
Nunez	Edwin	Procurement and Diversity

- I. Welcome
- II. Call to Order – Director David Merriman
 - a. Review & Approval of Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes by Director Merriman and Seconded by Director Lockett. Minutes approved
- III. Opening Remarks from Equity Commission Members
 - May 25, 2021 – Cuyahoga County approved legislation for the creation of the Department of Equity and Inclusion and have appointed Director Lenora Lockett as interim, and Catherine Tkachyk will be director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity. No website is set up, but the office can be reached at 216-443-7230.
 - A revision to the charter for the structure and legislation regarding the appointed roles in the equity commission? What about the director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity?
 - The Department of Development release an RFQ for non-profit, for-profit, and public organizations that support small businesses in the area
 - Department of Public Safety and Justice Services has about 70 employees and are spread across 4 locations. Four meetings have been set to brief staff on initiatives advancing racial equity
 - Department of Health and Human Services continues to work internally to look at practices and policies to align efforts with the county. About 50-80 volunteers participate in Employee Resource Groups monthly.
- IV. GARE Annual Conference: Democracy for All – Governing for Racial Justice

- As a reminder, GARE stands for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity. GARE is a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. The core network includes about 310 members, a half-dozen state agencies, 32 states, and 150 cities.
- Conference took place virtually from May 18th to May 21st and Cuyahoga County had 10 participants representing departments of law, procurement and diversity, human resources, innovation and performance, health and human services, clerk of courts, development and the workforce development board. Many of us attended the pre-conference session, the GARE Foundations: Advancing Racial Equity in Government where the objectives were to understand the role of government in advancing racial equity, develop a shared racial equity analysis including definitions of key terminology and be motivated to take action.
- Workshops included a diversity of topics, but to highlight a few I was able to attend the “GARE RE Employee Survey: Leveraging Insights into Action” where we heard takeaways from other jurisdictions who have launched an employee survey. Also, “Texas Budget Equity Tools – 3 Lessons from 3 Cities” discussed budgeting for this work. Lastly, we also heard from Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Nikole Hannah Jones as the conference was concluded.
- Overall, we’ve heard positive feedback from the County’s Participants and would recommend this opportunity be made available for larger groups in upcoming years.

V. Closing Remarks

VI. Adjourn