



City Council

Approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Social Justice and Equity Commission and Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 2.100

Agenda Date: 11/16/2021
Agenda Item Number: 4.E
File Number:21-1059

Type: ordinance **Version:** 2 **Status:** Passed

Title

Approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Social Justice and Equity Commission and Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 2.100

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

On Wednesday, October 27, the General Government Commission approved forwarding a recommendation to the full City Council to establish a Social Justice and Equity Commission.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to adopt an Ordinance Establishing a Social Justice and Equity Commission, Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 2.100 on second reading.

Report

Issue:

Whether to adopt an Ordinance Establishing a Social Justice and Equity Commission and Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 2.100

Staff Contact:

Debbie Sullivan, Assistant City Manager 360.753.8499

Presenter(s):

None - Consent Calendar item

Background and Analysis:

Background and Analysis did not change from first to second reading.

In June 2020, the City Council made a referral to the General Government Committee requesting the establishment of an advisory commission to address social justice to “dismantle institutional racism and all forms of oppression within our city government while helping build a more equitable, just, and thriving community.”

The City's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator led a participatory leadership approach to explore and develop a recommendation with a Founding Member Work Group, made of five marginalized community members, with an emphasis on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. The group hosted a series of Community Conversations to elevate the voices of marginalized community members to understand the experiences, perspectives, and impacts associated with racism and other biases. This input was used to inform the Founding Members Work Group recommendation for establishing a permanent Commission.

The attached Ordinance establishes the new Commission as an eleven (11) member Social Justice and Equity Commission. Their duties include:

- Receiving complaints related to unlawful discrimination that occurs within the City of Olympia with the goal of eliminating racism and fulfilling human rights for all residents of the City of Olympia for a just and equitable Olympia for all people
- Mediation, conciliation, and investigation of unlawful discrimination, and issues related to racial, social justice, human rights or other forms of discrimination
- Advising the City on projects, events, policies, and practices
- Participating in community and educational outreach to build relationships and seek community feedback regarding the Commission

If Council approves the ordinance, the next step will be to recruit Commissioners. The timing will coincide with the City's annual schedule for the recruitment and application process for the other Council appointed Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The feedback received by the Founding Members Work Group through the public engagement process strongly supports establishing a more inclusive way in which to listen, understand, and respond to the needs of historically marginalized community members.

Options:

1. Adopt the Ordinance Establishing a Social Justice and Equity Commission, Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 2.100 on second reading.
2. Adopt the Ordinance Establishing a Social Justice and Equity Commission based on feedback received by City Council on second reading.
3. Do not adopt the Ordinance Establishing a Social Justice and Equity Commission and direct staff to present an updated Ordinance and a future meeting.

Financial Impact:

The funding source for this appropriation is reserves set aside for the purpose of economic development. The economic development reserves total approximately \$2.6 million. The appropriation of \$550,000 would reduce this reserve to approximately \$2,050,000.

Attachments:

Ordinance

