

BLUE RIBBON EQUITABLE TASK FORCE ACTION MINUTES - THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Margaret O'Brien.

1. **Roll Call:** Katz, Kwamilele, Larsen, Oke, Ortega, Swafford, Takata-Vasquez were present. Moncada-Konte arrived at 6:10. Wanzo arrived at 6:15. Tsai, and Williams were absent. There was a quorum.

Board Members provided a brief synopsis of their background.

Margaret O'Brien, City Revenue and Tax Administrator, introduced herself and other Oakland staff members: Huey Dang, Principal Revenue Analyst, Chuck Maurer, Principal Revenue Analyst; Jennifer Logue, Deputy City Attorney, Micah Hinkle, Deputy Director Economic & Workforce Development; and Mitesh Bhakta, Deputy City Attorney. She also introduced outside consultants, Matt Newman and Shawn Blosser who work at Blue Sky Consulting Group.

2. **Public Comment** – No speakers.

3. **Informational Items**

- A. **Informational presentation of City Council proposed Equitable Business Tax resolution 88227 CMS and fiscal impact**
 - i. **Resolution 88337 CMS**
 - ii. **Finance Department's report staff**

Assistant Revenue & Tax Administrator Rogers Agaba provided a presentation and noted the figures were from before the COVID pandemic.

- B. **Continuation (from 4/22/2021 Special Taskforce meeting) Designing a Progressive Business Tax presentation**

Matt Newman and Shawn Blosser from Blue Sky Consulting Group reviewed business taxes by sector, business tax rates for other local cities, review possible goals for business tax reform, what raising taxes may involve, and next steps.

4. **Action Items:**

- A. **(Continued from the 4/22/2021 Special Taskforce meeting) Ad Hoc Committee Assignments**

Discussion held pertaining to how the sub committees could be created.

Discussion held regarding the three possible committees: Job quality and employment – committee a, Business mobility, real estate, attraction and retention – committee b, and Update buckets (categories)/implementation of “tax holidays” – committee c

Committee A Members were: Katz, Konte, Kwamilele and Oke

Committee B Members were: Takata-Vasquez, Wanzo, Williams and Katz.

Committee C Members were: Larsen and Swafford.

Chair Takata-Vasquez moved, seconded by Board Member Oke to create the three ad hoc committees with the members stated.

Board polled as follows: Katz, Moncada-Konte, Kwamilele, Larsen, Oke, Swafford, Takata-Vasquez, Williams, Wanzo voted “aye.” All ayes – motion carried.

- 5. Open Discussion – Task Force will discuss their business tax priorities and potentially delegate research items to staff and ad hoc committees for research and analysis.**

- 6. Agenda Requests for Future Meetings**

Chair and Vice Chair noted they would create the next agenda.

- 7. Open Forum**

No Comment.

- 8. Adjournment**

Margaret adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Next meeting will be May 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm.