

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Business Advisory Committee April 2022 Meeting Summary

Attendance

Members **Present** (8) Samuel Gebru, Vicki Gary, Angela Hofmann, Marcus Johnson-Smith, Jaswinder Kaur, Kimberly Massenburg, Allentza Michel, Jennie Song, Zina Thompson, LaTonya Smith-Winston

Absent (3) Jason Doo, Nephtaliem McCrary, Erinn Pearson

City staff (6) Police Commissioner Christine Elow, Jeremy Warnick, Buckowe Yam (CPD)
Iram Farooq, Pardis Saffari, (CDD)

Others 1 member of the public

Welcome & Introductions

Pardis Saffari (PS) opened the virtual meeting at 4:00 PM by welcoming members of the BIPOC Business Advisory Committee and Cambridge Police Department (CPD) staff. Committee members went around and introduced their business.

Discussion with Policy Commissioner Christine Elow

Committee staff discussed the following:

- Surveillance and camera footage – questions around the city policies, if businesses should add cameras.
- Homelessness increasing along Cambridge St. – who can we call to get folks help? Best to call the CPD non-emergency line at 617-349-3300 and staff can come and provide people assistance
- There is an increase in violence among the youth, especially between Somerville and Cambridge. Commission Elow mentioned the variety of efforts CPD is doing to support Cambridge youth and the ongoing Safe Streets, Safe City meetings, hosted by Councillor E. Denise Simmons and Commissioner Elow. Next meeting is on April 28, 2022.
- Commissioner Elow and CPD staff discussed the following programs:
 - Cambridge Youth Cadet Program:
<https://www.finditcambridge.org/programs/cambridge-youth-police-academy?language=ne>
 - Cambridge Police Cadet Program:
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/iwantto/becomeacambridgepolicecadet>
 - Cambridge Small Business Police Programs: CPD offers free small business security checks, staff trainings on security, etc. If you are interested in getting a security review or learning more, please contact Buckowe Yam at: byam@cambridgepolice.org

- Other information:
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/cpd/communityresources/businessoutreach>
- Is there a roadmap/guide for hiring youth?
- Members of the Committee were interested in whether there could be a youth/business shadowing program, perhaps a part of the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MYSEP) or for older youth, similar to the CPD's Cadet program, where young adults can learn about being in law enforcement.

Other Committee Items

PS mentioned that the city is celebrating National Small Business Week in May 1-7, 2022

Public comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.