

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

Attendance

Members **Present** (10) Vicki Gray, Kimberly Massenburg, Jennie Song, Jaswinder Kaur, Zina Thompson, Angela Hofmann

Absent (6) Jason Doo, Allentza Michel, Nephtaliem McCrary, Samuel Gebru, LaTonya Smith-Winston, Erinn Pearson

City staff (3) **Brooke McKenna (TPT)**, Pardis Saffari (CDD), Marlees West (CDD)

Others 1 member of the public

Welcome & Introductions

Marlees West (MW), CDD's new Community Engagement Outreach Manager, opened the virtual meeting at 4:00 PM by welcoming members of the BIPOC Business Advisory Committee and staff. Committee members introduced themselves, their business, and one thing that they are looking forward to in the next month.

Cycling Safety Ordinance Presentation

Brooke McKenna (BM), the Assistant Director for Street Management, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department presented information about the Cycling Safety Ordinance

Committee comments/questions on presentation:

- Appreciate the City's efforts to make us a greener City
- With Bus 77 service being cut, how is the city addressing the fewer transit options (on Mass. Ave.)
A: Bus 77 service is cut due to staffing shortages, and it is anticipated that it will return to normal service soon.
- How is the City mitigating the loss of parking? Many businesses have seen a huge decrease in sales due to the newly installed bike lanes.
A: City is adding parking on side streets (when applicable), as well as loading zones. Staff are also accessing the city regulations around the use of off-street, private parking lots.
- What's the plan for the elderly and pregnant women? There are folks who cannot ride a bike or don't have the ability to ride a bike. This is especially the case in the winter. We are a four-season city.
A: City is adding curbside accessible parking spaces.
- There are issues with parking spaces across the street or a few blocks down – I go to City Paint on North Mass Ave. As a contractor, I need to buy multiple cans of paint. It's difficult to talk 20

or more cans of paint across the street. Due to the lack of parking (in front of the business), I cannot support a fellow small business owner and will have to purchase items from another business. As a small business owner, I'm concerned for my fellow small business owners.

- It seems like the city is focusing on Technology Square and tech workers and not small businesses (with the installation of the bike lanes)
- Who is the audience for these bike lanes? Is it Cambridge folks? What about people from other communities?
- I have seen the installation around my business, and it's very stressful. Trucks are loading in the middle of the street, causing traffic jams, people are blocking driveways, and people are no longer able to pre-order and quickly pick up items from my business.
- Can bike riders get licenses? They need to follow the rules of the road.
- Have there been any bike counts?
- Traffic congestion and parking is difficult everywhere in the city.
- Question on the possible changes to Memorial Drive.
- Delivery service pickups also pose challenges for drivers with limited spaces to park without "dooring" a biker or blocking a bus lane

General Business

Pardis Saffari (PS) mentioned that the tentative date of the next meeting is March 21, 2022. The survey results and a discussion on the Committee's outreach, policy, and program recommendations. Future upcoming meetings include:

- Meet the new Police Commissioner
- Meet the business associations and Chamber of Commerce leaders
- Visit each other's businesses and get to know each other in-person, perhaps an in-person meeting

Public comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.