

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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07/28/20
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Date: July 28, 2020

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Patti Garibay, Manager – Innovation & Economic Development

Subject: **Introduce Ordinance No. 1075 Adding Chapter 2.39 to the Lancaster Municipal Code Creating the Lancaster Social Justice Commission**

Recommendation:

Introduce **Ordinance No. 1075**, adding Chapter 2.39 to the Lancaster Municipal Code creating the Lancaster Social Justice Commission.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Background:

The proposed Ordinance adds Chapter 2.39 to the Lancaster Municipal Code to establish the Lancaster Social Justice Commission. The Lancaster Social Justice Commission will consist of seven Commissioners of Change and up to three alternates whose purpose shall be to cultivate and sustain diversity and inclusion through accountability and civilian oversight by fostering a fair and equitable justice system with transparency in all forms of government in the City of Lancaster.

The Lancaster Social Justice Commission will be appointed by the Mayor and ratified through a vote of the City Council. Commissioners will act in an advisory capacity to the City Council, City Manager, and the County Sheriff's Department on matters regarding diversity and inclusion.

At the July 14, 2020 City Council Meeting, Social Justice and Social Equity Goals, which the Lancaster Social Justice Commission will work to move forward, were discussed. The Commission's Social Justice Goals will include increasing civic engagement, increasing public transparency and working closely with the Sheriff's Department, ensuring credibility and transparency in those investigations that end in a civil rights violation or deputy involved death, the creation of a community task force, the promotion of transparency through subpoena power, and working to remove barriers for re-entry for people with challenging backgrounds.

Social Equity Goals were also shared including the creation of programs with guaranteed job placement for students, the creation of financial literacy programs for high school and college students in Lancaster, the development of grants to support jobs and entrepreneurship and working with the City to increase the availability of mentorship and afterschool programs for young people in Lancaster.

Attachment:
Ordinance No. 1075

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