

THOUSAND OAKS CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

**Agenda Related Items - Meeting of April 27, 2021
Supplemental Packet Date: April 27, 2021**

5:00 p.m.

Supplemental Information:

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TO COUNCIL: 04/27/2021
MEETING DATE: 04/27/2021

| Name (Optional) | Community of Residence (Optional) | Item # | In favor/ Opposed | Comment |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------------|--|
| Steve Schiedermayer | Westlake Village | 6 | N/A | <p>Many of the requirements for our Plan are state-mandated and are resulting in an increasing lack of control at City level. This is a very bad trend that has been allowed to progress due to lack of visibility for residents of pending legislation that negatively impacts local control. My understanding is that there are over 100 bills in this session involving housing. I suggest asking city staff to immediately identify all legislation that reduces local/city authority, post that legislation on an easily-identifiable web page of the city's site, describing the negative impact on local control. Start with Senate Constitutional Amendment 2, due to go to committee on April 29, which repeals Article 34 and local control over low-rent housing projects. The City Council led by the Mayor, should be visibly opposing legislation that reduces local control.</p> |
| Desta Goehner | Thousand Oaks | 6 | In favor | <p>I applaud the City Council for making equity, diversity, and inclusion a top goal for the City of Thousand Oaks. Thank you for that important decision! We will all benefit from this work.</p> <p>The speakers at the last City Council Meeting who were against this action showed us all why we need this so badly.</p> <p>Black, Indigenous, Latinx, AAPI and other people from communities of color should not have to put their trauma on display for white people to believe that they experience racism and discrimination. I have heard the stories and seen these truths play out from my BIPOC friends and colleagues here in Thousand Oaks. It is not okay. We all suffer from this when we aren't addressing the needs of these communities, especially as they have already been begging to be heard and seen.</p> <p>Carrying out the city's TOP GOAL of equity and inclusion requires an equity commission to determine how to best accomplish this and make Thousand Oaks truly welcoming to all. I am here to support you as a group and as individuals in and through this. I will be watching, paying attention and look forward to moving us into a better and new space together.</p> |
| Kaitlyn Voyce | Thousand Oaks | 6 | N/A | <p>After reading comments shared at the April 13 City Council meeting, I feel even more strongly about the need for the City Council to make the Racial Equity Resolution a top goal for the city. The comments shared show that our community has work to do to be a safe place for all community members. This is not a political statement or agenda; it is about recognizing the different experiences we all have within our community. I grew up in Thousand Oaks and moved back about 10 years ago after attending school out of state. I do not want this city's legacy to be one that buries its head in the sand and denies the covert and overt racism that other residents experience or actively participates in it. I want this city to be welcoming, caring place for all residents. People of color do not need to relive their experiences of racism for others to believe it. Carrying out the city's TOP GOAL of equity and inclusion requires an equity commission to determine how best to accomplish this and make Thousand Oaks truly welcoming to all.</p> |

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| Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn | Newbury Park | 6 | N/A | <p>Thanks to the City Council for their Equity and Inclusion Goal!</p> <p>As Minister of Chalice Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, I was so grateful to read the visionary and caring statement of your number one priority goal to: "Create a more equitable, accessible, safe, welcoming, and inclusive government and community regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, language, education, and/or socio-economic status."</p> <p>This statement aligns with the core values of many faith traditions and resonates with our Unitarian Universalist Principle of "affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person."</p> <p>The Council's new number one goal is timely. Since the city is creating a new general plan for the future of Thousand Oaks, it's important that this goal guide the core values and mission of this work.</p> <p>Thousand Oaks is a lovely community with many generous and caring people. But there is also a reality here of racism and exclusionary mindsets. We have unfortunately seen it at our church many times as we've received hateful, racist, and intimidating messages. We've also heard it from our congregants of color who have been followed in stores, threatened and told to leave this area. We are all better than this. Our scriptures teach us to love our neighbor, not to shun them.</p> <p>People of faith and good will support the Council's new one priority goal. We also encourage Council members to stand strong, even when facing opposition to their commitment to inclusion and equity. Finally, we urge the Council to follow up the goal with substantial action, programs, and resources, to make this goal a reality. Thank you for your leadership.</p> <p>In hope and faith,</p> <p>Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn</p> |
| Rebekah | | 6 | In favor | <p>This month, the City of Thousand Oaks announced that inclusion and equity is their long-term top goal. This cannot be achieved without an equity commission. As a concerned member of the neighboring community of Camarillo, I would like to take a moment to congratulate this city council on recognizing the importance of inclusion, and further urge the council not to just, "talk the talk," but to "walk the walk," by developing this equity commission. Show your community that you mean what you say, so they can continue to put trust in your guidance.</p> |
| Rebekah | | 6 | In favor | <p>I have submitted previously, but would like to further add that encouraging equity and inclusion, specifically by creating an equity commission, does not harm anyone but benefits everyone. It does not suggest that racism is prevalent in the community; it suggests that this community wants to ensure that racism is not an issue. Further, certain members of populations within the city having never experienced racism does not negate the very real experiences that other members have had, and, importantly, it is not the responsibility of those experiencing racism to air out their trauma to appeal to the people who deny these realities. This city council has the power to do the right thing. I hope you take it.</p> |

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| Lacey Davidson | Thousand Oaks | 6 | N/A | At the council meeting on April 13, several Thousand Oaks residents spoke out against the identification of equity, diversity, and inclusion as a top priority for the City of Thousand Oaks. The content of these comments highlighted the deep need for our city to do more work around these issues. As is well documented by activists, organizers, and scholars, a denial of structural racism is a primary barrier to being able to address racism in all its forms. We can clearly see the need for an Equity Commission to develop a shared vision for our community that is designed with all people in mind to be welcoming and supportive. As a Thousand Oaks resident, I hope to see our City Council Members stand together and continue to make equity, diversity, and inclusion a top priority in our City. |
| Nicolette Walker-Itza | Ojai | 6 | N/A | <p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Nicolette Walker-Itza and I am a lifelong resident of Ventura County. I am a parent of a child of color in public school, as well as a preschool teacher, early childhood antiracist educator, and community organizer. I currently live in Ojai, and I have worked and continue to spend time and shop in Thousand Oaks.</p> <p>I am writing to voice my support for an Equity Commission, which was mentioned at the last council meeting. An Equity Commission would allow the city of Thousand Oaks to carry out their "top mission" of addressing equity and inclusion. A commission is crucial to give input and guidance of community members, especially those affected directly by inequalities, oppression and exclusionary practices and structures, directly to the city so that sustainable, positive change can happen.</p> <p>As we heard today in the County Board of Supervisors meeting, there is an increase of hate crimes across Ventura County, and it is up to all of us to make a stand against racism and white supremacy in all its forms. We must not wait until another hate crime or racist incident happens, because we have seen it happen over and over and there is no question that it exists. What remains to be seen is a comprehensive and sustainable plan implemented by a city to counteract these crimes and build a better, safer community for all residents. Again, I encourage your council to begin the process of creating a community-led Equity Commission.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| We are hopeful that the residents of Thousand Oaks will be open to further discussions about racial equality , decency and kindness during today's meeting. Patricia and Darrell Bevan | Thousand Oaks | 7 | N/A | I'm not sure under which item my comment fits, but I'm sure you'll know. Thanks for your attention. |