

Revised Minutes of the Special Committee on Racial Equity Meeting
February 1, 2024

<https://youtu.be/WfUwOQXuY8Q>

Attendees

Committee: Margaret Della (chair), Bob Bender, Kelli Buford, Sebastian Chittilappilly
Committee members with Extraordinary Circumstances: NA
Absent: Bob Fanuzzi

Board members: Julie Reyes

Agenda

The Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) meeting began at 7:08 pm and the Chair welcomed the community to the meeting and recognizing the first celebratory day of Black History Month and the many blessings in the year ahead.

The Chair began her report with a recent [FBI report on Hate Crime statistics between 2018-2022*](#) in which hate crimes at school are the third most likely place where individuals reported instances. Of that sector, elementary-aged Black children have been exposed to the greatest frequency of hate crimes. Antisemitism and anti-LGBTQ crimes followed.

As discussed, racial discrimination increases health issues such as depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. Youth are also more susceptible to mental health crises than those who did not experience discrimination, according to a [2021 study](#).

The Chair reiterated that oppression of one group indicates that there will be an increase in discrimination, threat of and violence itself against other marginalized groups. This underscores our collective responsibility and coming together is the way we protect each other.

The Committee discussed the following areas:

- Discussed HHS Committee November 2023 conversation to discuss the effects of hate on health: how humans cope with stress, how stress like hate or perceived hate can become toxic on the body. What can individuals do to care for themselves and how can the community rally to look out for each other?

*Since 1930, the UCR Program includes voluntarily submitted data from more than 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. [Special Report January 2024: School Hate - 3rd most common location for hate crime](#) After the categories of residence/home and highway/road/alley, school was the third most common location for a reported hate crime offense to occur during the five-year period of 2018 to 2022. The most common bias type of reported hate crime offenses at schools was Anti-Black or African American, with 1,690 reported hate crime offenses involving this bias type during the observed five years, followed by Anti-Jewish (745 offenses), and AntiLesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (Mixed Group) (342 offenses). FBI hate crime statistics in 2022 rose to 11,634 incidents, the highest number recorded since the FBI started tracking data in 1991, marking a 0.5% increase compared with 2021.

- If we convened people to discuss the effects of hate on health, what would be the goal, audience, scope?
- Does the community know how and where to report hate crimes, where to get help?
- What are options for young people? Schools, faith institutions and nonprofits are all options in the district.
- If we talk about hate, we have to talk about self-hate. We need information on suicides, where people can get help in the community.
- We have to talk about those who are committing hate crimes. [According to 2022 FBI data](#), more than 51% of hate crimes are committed by white men over 18yo. (Correction from [2019 data](#) referenced in meeting)
- Social media is fueling peoples' distorted view of themselves, their bodies, what is health and what are healthy behaviors, extreme political and violent rhetoric.

The Committee agreed upon the following next steps:

- The Committee initially discussed just collaborating with the Youth and HHS Committees, then Education, then Aging, Economic Development, Veterans,... soon, every Committee and collaboration was deemed critical. The Committee recommends each Committee should consider taking on 'hate' in some way.
- A youth-led conversation: Convening ideally with the Youth Committee or schools and organizations in the district.
- Awareness: Compile district resources for victims of hate crimes, to prevent suicide, on social media
- Self-hate: The Community Board has to realize the way we respond to each other is reflective of how we feel about ourselves. It starts with us.
- Success will be indicated by the following:
 - Strong community engagement
 - Taking action
 - Reporting hate crimes in CompStat and reducing hate crimes overtime
 - Demonstrate how we lose when hate is prevalent in our community: mental health, feelings of hopelessness, economic immobility, family destruction

The Committee also discussed providing more information in the community on fentanyl, locations where residents can find test strips for safe cannabis use, safe use locations, and provide guidance on NYS and NYC Narcan trainings.

The Committee unanimously approved the November 2023 minutes.

Next Meetings first Thursdays in April and May. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Della.