City of Phoenix
Heart of the Rogue Valley

City Council
www.phoenixoregon.gov
541-535-1955

City Council Study Session
Agenda
July 06, 2020
5:00 p.m. Public Meeting
Phoenix Plaza Civic Center 220 N. Main St.

An agenda packet is available on the city's website and agendas will be available at City Hall the Friday before a meeting.
There will be no public comment time during the study session.
If you need special accommodations, please give city hall 48-hour prior notice.

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call / Confirmation of a Quorum**

2. **Discuss City of Phoenix Social Equity Policy.....2**

3. **Adjournment**

City of Phoenix
Heart of the Rogue Valley

Agenda Report
to Mayor and Council

Agenda item title: City Council Work Session, Discuss City of Phoenix Social Equity Policy

Meeting Date: July 6, 2020

From: Eric Swanson, Interim City Manager

Action: __Motion, __Ordinance, _X_ Resolution, __Information only, _X_ Other

SUMMARY

This is a city council work session to discuss adoption of a social equity policy for the City of Phoenix. The city council directed staff to place this on the 7/6 meeting agenda as a work session followed by official action during the subsequent regular meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Social equity issues have historically been and continue to be a concern in our democratic society. It is important that City of Phoenix community leaders support efforts to promote social equity on behalf of its citizens.

At the 6/15 city council meeting, the council passed a motion, approving the statement from Chief Bowker regarding George Floyd and racial equity. Additionally, Councilor Westover passed out a statement for city council review. Both documents will be utilized as a framework for discussion during the work study. We anticipate using these deliberations to draft a resolution for consideration during the regular meeting agenda.

COUNCIL GOAL SUPPORTED

Goal 18 – Open, transparent, consistent governance.

FISCAL IMPACT

We anticipate that there will be minimal expense related to implementation of this policy. Training costs and speaker/trainer fees can be absorbed into the various departmental budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the resolution to establish a City of Phoenix Social Equity Policy.

PROPOSED MOTION

After adjournment from the city council work session and during the city council meeting,

"I move to approve Res. No. 1059 – A Resolution of Phoenix, Oregon affirming its commitment to social equity."

ATTACHMENTS

Suggestions for Phoenix City Council Statement provided by Councilor Westover
Chief Bowker Statement

Suggestions for Phoenix City Council Statement

- The City of Phoenix condemns the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. We acknowledge and condemn excessive use of force by police which disproportionately impacts black and brown communities nationwide.

- As publicly elected officials we recognize the importance of using this moment for reflection and critical examination of the entrenched bias that pervade our institutions. We accept the responsibility of being responsive to community concerns and commit ourselves to critically engaging in difficult conversations around police practices and accountability.

- We appreciate our local police department for its commitment to continued education, training and practices that help to prevent escalation and violence. We believe that community conversations about police accountability and opportunities for improvement are still vital and necessary.

- As a city we will work to support and, where possible, invest financially in new and existing social programs. We will prioritize connecting community members with services instead of police intervention wherever possible. This includes those in need of service related to mental health, addiction and homelessness.

- We acknowledge that police aren't always the most appropriate first responders for every situation and that we must have other social supports in place. We will support local efforts to establish and fund community-based (Non-law enforcement based) mobile crisis intervention programs similar to the Eugene-based CAHOOTS model (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets).

- We recognize that bias and racism are deeply ingrained into all aspects of American culture including our government. The city of Phoenix will commit to securing annual training on implicit bias for ALL city staff and elected city officials so that we can learn more about how to challenge oppression in our everyday environments.

As we, as a community, continue to mourn the senseless murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department, the Phoenix Police Department wishes to convey to its residents that we are heartbroken for the Floyd family and any person who has ever been a victim of excessive force used against them by the police. Let me assure you, what you and I saw in the video coming out of Minneapolis deeply troubled me and every person associated with this department. The actions of those officers are in no way indicative of how we operate and their actions are nowhere near how we train our officers to act or conduct business. Any officer in this department, or the United States for that matter, that watched that video and didn't have a problem with those officers' actions, needs to turn in their badge and gun and find another line of work.

We have worked hard in the 15 years that I have been associated with this department to build a trusting relationship with all members of this community. We realize that the actions of these Minneapolis officers have tarnished the badge across the country. I assure you; every member of this department is dedicated to serve everyone in this community equally, without prejudice. We will do everything in our power to regain any trust you have lost in Law Enforcement as a whole. We are your police department and we want you to be as proud of your department as we are when we put the uniform on every day to come out into the community to serve you.

Sincerely,

Derek A. Bowker, Chief
Phoenix Police Department

Derek A. Bowker

Derek A. Bowker, Chief
Phoenix Police Department
(541)535-1113 (Voice)
(541)535-2040 (Fax)