

Date: October 26, 2021

To: Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (EHRAC)

From: Civil Discourse Workshop Ad Hoc Sub-committee

Subject: Approval of Ad Hoc Sub-committee's Plan for the Civil Discourse Workshop

Summary: The Ad Hoc Sub-committee recommends the EHRAC retain the services of The Institute for Civility in Government to facilitate a two-part Civil Discourse Workshop for the leaders and community stakeholders of Culver City on Saturday December 4, 2021 for \$ 7,000. The Ad Hoc Sub-committee also recommends approval of the Civil Discourse Workshop schedule and content as set forth below and in the attached Civil Discourse Workshop proposal.

Institute for Civility in Government

Following EHRAC approval of the Civil Discourse Workshop Event to take place on Saturday December 4, 2021, an internet search was done to locate organizations that could facilitate this event. The most prominent organization was the Institute for Civility in Government (ICG). Information about the ICG and its qualifications can be seen at <https://www.instituteforcivility.org/>.

Interactions with the ICG were initiated by e-mail and zoom call by Michelle Dennis and Rebecca Rona-Tuttle, the only members of the sub-committee at that time. The ICG submitted a draft proposal. Subsequently, Anissa Di Vincente and London McBride volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Sub-committee. The expanded sub-committee met via zoom, reviewed the draft proposal and determined some minor changes were necessary. The changes were communicated to the ICG, they agreed to the changes and a final proposal was submitted. The final proposal is attached.

The Civil Discourse Workshop Schedule and Content

The Civil Discourse Workshop on December 4, 2021 will occur in two sessions:

- Session 1 (10:00 – Noon)—During this session on the morning of December 4th, staff of the ICG will provide training in the concept of civil discourse.
- Session 2 (1:00 – 3:00) --- During this afternoon session, the ICG facilitators will work with the attendees (Culver City leaders and stakeholders) to create a set of Community Civil Discourse Guidelines that participants will recommend to the EHRAC and to the City of Culver City as a whole. When officially approved by the EHRAC, these recommended guidelines can be used by any community participants in discussions, in particular where there are strong opposing views. The intent is that these guidelines will lead to positive rather than contentious discussions and ultimately to valuable outcomes.

Training and Facilitation Fee

The ICG proposal includes a fee of \$ 7,000.

Sub-committee members view this fee as an investment in the future of the Culver City community. The recommended Community Civil Discourse Guidelines will not only provide a foundation for the EHRAC's future facilitation of community discussions on issues of importance to the community, but also contribute to the development of community leaders and stakeholders who are committed to civil discourse.

Recommendations

1. The EHRAC approve the Civil Discourse Workshop schedule and content as set forth in this report and the attached proposal.
2. The EHRAC approve the retention of The Institute for Civility in Government to provide the Civil Discourse Workshop for the City of Culver City for \$7,000.

Submitted By the Civil Discourse Workshop Ad Hoc Sub-committee:

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