

Captioning Transcript of Committee on Equity and Inclusion - October 6, 2022

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Peace, welcome to the Committee on Equity and Inclusion, today is Thursday, October 6th, 2022, the time is currently 4:43 p.m. I'm Chairman Jecorey Arthur, we also have Vice Chair Anthony Piagentini, with Committee Members Nicole George, Cassie Chambers Armstrong and we should be joined by other members here soon. This meeting is being held pursuant to 61.826 and council rule 5A. We'll start our agenda with a resolution item number 2, and then we'll spend the rest of the committee hearing from metro agencies and a special discussion item number 2 R-128- 22 a resolution relating to the voting of incarcerated individuals at Louisville Metro Department of corrections and in Kentucky motion to untable?

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Motion.

"Kramer, Kevin"

Second.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

All right motion by Piagentini, second by Kramer. We have some special guests to talk about this resolution we'll have a conversation around it and then we'll hold onto it so that we can clean it up a little bit more. So, thank you for being here. Please make sure you say your name, your organization for the record, and we'll have some back and forth and some collaboration with committee members.

"Campbell, Stephanie"

As Stephanie Campbell, with the Jefferson County clerk's office elections.

"Friday, Frank"

Frank Friday, director of government affairs for the county clerk's office.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Vice Chair.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Great thank you, Mr. chair, first of all, I just want to thank you. Both for coming today appreciate the time and collaboration with the clerk's office and Bobby's office if really the ass today, and I think what you hopefully prepared some comments on is, you know, my, and, Chairman Arthur, and I have talked about some of the logistical concerns here right but if you could elaborate a little bit on what you've read in the resolution, your initial thoughts, and then either related to the language or the logistics of being able to pull this off right, I think a lot of us are supportive of the intent to make sure those that still have their voting rights, whether they're currently in custody at department

of corrections, or wherever they live, should have access and be able to vote but, of course, there's a lotta logistics to switch your office handles, so if you could please elaborate a little bit, we'd appreciate it. And then we do have the Department of corrections if you have some questions for them, we can have them come up, introduce themselves and hopefully answer those questions as well.

"Friday, Frank"

I'd be happy to start, Councilman, the first thing that we noticed was about this resolutions it's fairly broad, and it takes to ensure the voting rights for the inmates of the jail who certainly are in most cases, going to be eligible to vote, a couple of issues are that we, as the clerk's office have to negotiate this process within the framework of state law and a lot of the parts of this are not really under our control. First, the first thing being eligibility to vote in terms of if some of these inmates have been previously convicted of a felony and then we see the rights back that record keeping is going to be done at the state level and we are happy to take their voter registration that can be done over the Internet, but that process ultimately may not want abreast with us. The second thing is the most common way for people to do apps, voting by mail is to go ahead on the state portal again and request that FC ballot be sent to them. Now, as I assume this would be in this case, inmates to the jail for an extended period of time, say, over a couple of weeks, at least would want to do that and we're simply not sure how I'm not aware of how that process goes, so, they have access to the Internet if they need to fill out a paper form and return it the clerk's office, that's available too we haven't really been apprised of any of this stuff about how this is going to work, but we'd be happy to work with that to see that happen. The third thing is, you're asking, I think your main point of interest for us was with the ballot Dropbox, once they receive the ballot, we're not really sure how the inmates would receive a ballot in the mail, what are the provisioning made for them at the jail, do they fill out the can they fill it out and mail it there that sort of mailing privileges do they have, do they have to keep that with them? Can it be stored for them? And they can fill it out at a later time. That might be important that we're under several strictures for ballot boxes and ballot handling the ballot box has to be if it's outside of the clerk's office, or outside of a property being run by the clerk care KRS117 or 86 to see it has any several security features, including them video surveillance and taping of that so we're kind of limited that we're trying to stay away from that so we're at this point, we're trying to keep ballot boxes, either at our clerks offices, or at places we will control such as the, the early voting days beforehand on the 3 days before the boundary like the fairgrounds during the time, the clerks to actually control that property. We're not really sure if we could kind of get away with that without adding all those other provisions to secure the ballot to the ground ballot box the ground to have video surveillance, those items in play and the last thing would be getting the ballot from the voter in this case, in the secure facility it makes it the jail to us if it's another if it go through the some person in the jail, KRS 117.861 provides a very strict limited to who can handle a ballot between the voter and taking that to a ballot box, or to a clerk's office, or a voting site so, we're kind of stuck with those provisions and following that along and doing that legally, so we kind of need to know a lot more

from if possible from the corrections folks about just the logistics of how this is going to happen and how they anticipate doing this. If there's any way we can if there's any way we can make this a smoother process we're happy to do that, let's say we are working under a lot of restrictions under a state law.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Thank you very much for that Frank. I just want to point out some of the issues with the ballot box, and then we might to your point explore other options, right? And at the same time, if a director Collins could come up, I would love to introduce director Collins and have him comment on some of the logistical things you've brought up. Frankly we could do a little bit of a dialogue for as much time as we can and then might be something we have to take offline and work through, but I do have the some of the state law provisions related to ballot box and this was something that was brought up to me by an election attorney right? They said, you know, look, there's some concerns with specifically using ballot box. It does require it needs to be placed place a quote, well, lit and easily accessible location there's actually some question about whether it needs public accessibility or not, secure to ensure immobility when in use under video surveillance at all times tamper, resistant conspicuously noted as male and drop and location. So, yeah, there's there's some limitations there, but, to your point, even if we go a different route, where we don't use ballot box, we use other sort of what I'll call more traditional mail in ballot methodologies again, when I was in the military, this is how we voted, right? And but the military had set up a structure in which we all requested our ballots we got them back, we filled them out we got them mailed out and all this so, of course, this is where we sort of pivot to the Department of corrections. So, I know the clerk's office brought up a lot of things where there are a few things you wanted to

"Arthur, Jecorey"

For the record to reflect committee member Barbara Shanklin has joined us.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

So director Collins. If you could introduce yourself for the record, then maybe whatever you're prepared to comment on in some of the logistics that have been brought up, and then again, we can, we can go from there.

"Collins, Jerry"

Eric Colin's director of Louisville Metro Corrections. Yeah, I know several things were a lot was mentioned in that I think the most important thing, to, to say upfront is making sure that we've increased our voter education registration, which is happening right now and it's important that folks that are eligible to to vote that are incarcerated have that opportunity so, we are more than willing to work with everyone to make that happen, whether it be absentee ballot balloting or covering the regulations of what it takes to do in person and I think the logistics, as far as we're concerned, we can work out and video surveillance obviously that's very easy working with you to secure a secure voting box can be accomplished pretty easy the movement of the folks that want to do in person planned out we can do that and obviously

in the past, there's been the ability to do absentee voting, but I think, this year Councilman Arthur and Dr. Leyderman and other folks have went through and we really increased the numbers of folks that want to vote and I think that's important. Whatever direction we want to move in I believe that we can support that.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Director Collins, follow up question. So if I remember correctly, the current census and the average census is about 1300, is that correct?

"Collins, Jerry"

15 this morning.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Okay, thank you. Do we have any sense of how many people not only like today, right? The election is a little over a month away, right? Do we have any sense of the amount of people right now if we were to take a snapshot who do not have prior felonies or any other or any other convictions that have eliminated their voting rights, and, you know, will be there, so, they still have their voting rights, and, you know, at this point that they will be there past November the 8th, do we have any sense of what that number would look like right now? .

"Collins, Jerry"

Yes. Well, we can estimate I can tell you because of the increased. Increase voter education and registration. We have 5 general population floors in the jail Dr. Leyderman and folks that went through and through doing 2 floors so far, I believe the upwards of 70 individuals that are incarcerated that that have registered, so we still have 3 more floors to go so you're probably looking at upwards of probably 200 now Dr. Leyderman can speak on kind of the cracks who your criteria they're looking at when they're interviewing folks.

"Leyderman, Mariya"

I think you covered it that I, I don't know if there's much more to add to that.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Thank you, the only other thing I wanted to point out and then I'm glad to, you know, I don't know, Chairman Arthur or any of the other council members have any other comments or questions at this point talk about and I do know that there's a potential amendment and chairman Arthur and I have talked about looking at the language more broadly I do want to clarify something. It does point out and I thought this was the case, but again, I had to talk to somebody that was involved in drafting the law. Although identification certain types of identification such as driver's license, and these others do require payment, there's a cost related to them those are what I'll call privilege based identification. In other words, driving is not a right it's privilege you have to pay as part of getting a driver's license as well as training and you have to contest in all of this as part of the law that was passed and I don't know if it was his last session or the session before that, I can't remember, was this last session? That's right. So, so a little over so almost 2 years ago,

the voting law that was passed did create a no cost a free identification and it's going to be super clear because I question, okay. Is it just a voter identification? The answer that is no. It is a general identified a state approved identification that comes at no cost. So because 1 of the things chairman, Arthur, and I were talking about is, okay, it's 1 thing to get identification in order to to be able to vote right? To be clear, you don't need identification to register registration is a different process, but for voting, you do need your identification, it does work for that, it also works for basically any other state government service so so just wanted to be clear that although there was some mention of some costs related to entity identification that created a no cost state sanction identification that can be used for voting and other state government services, so thank you Mr. Chair.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Let the record reflect. That committee member Winkler has an excuse absence. We're also joined by committee member Kramer, question for the county clerk. I'm curious if you've worked with any jurisdictions on voting access for people who are currently incarcerated?

"Friday, Frank"

No, this is, I think this is the 1st time we've been asked to look into this. I don't know, it was their procedure before a couple of years ago, where there'd be in person voting, some of the inmates you request to go down for the in person, early voting, I think they would, they would have been qualified or some sort of consensus as I understand it most counties, because they're much smaller in Kentucky they basically have their general population, like, right next door to the county clerk's office and they find a fairly informal process where they can have them come in and vote early and do that and they would have qualified under the previous laws. At least at this point, we have not been in contact lately with the corrections about, about doing it this year. We have several, several questions about about the process and corrections if you're able to ask about that, though, we're ready to do that.

"Collins, Jerry"

Okay, yeah. Are you asking about, we would be willing to take folks somewhere?

"Friday, Frank"

Oh, is that on the board?

"Collins, Jerry"

Oh, no, no. That wouldn't be on the board. Basically that would be impossible for those numbers.

"Friday, Frank"

I didn't think so. Okay, exactly. And do you have in the people have access to the Internet to make these voter make the voter they haven't seen a ballot request.

"Collins, Jerry"

It would not be Internet based.

"Friday, Frank"

Okay, so they'd have to fill out the form. Okay. So I still don't think. Can they make a phone call at some point to request this? This may be the sticking point here on call. What's the clerk's office? Yeah.

"Collins, Jerry"

I'd have to consult with my IT folks on that, and with our provider, but depending on the numbers, we could possibly do that.

"Friday, Frank"

Okay, I think that may be the issue is just just in terms of what what the Councilman Arthur asked about the last 2 iterations of this law has gotten has gotten more involved. I don't think anybody in Frankfurt kind of tailor anything for this population of voters, so we're kind of kind of making trying to work with this at this point right now, with the new new procedures and there may be some sticking points here, but we definitely want to work through this.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

I think I just heard that last piece, but I just want to make sure for the record that the county clerk is willing to work with corrections and make sure people have voting access.

"Friday, Frank"

Absolutely and we recognize with the new changes, especially this, this is something where we'd be happy to cooperate anyway, we can work with the county Attorney's office as well to make sure we have a procedure everyone's going to be happy with. But I think we will do everything we can to accommodate these voters. Like I said, I just don't think of the many things that were done in Frankfort for the last 2 years to reform our voting process, which a lot of good things happened I don't think this population was really addressed 1 way or another so that's kind of what we're dealing with right now and I commend you all for, bringing this up to us because obviously there are people who are qualified to vote and I understand that in other states as well. We've done some research on this it's a problem everywhere because, like, say, the legal logistics of following law and also making accommodations for the circumstances find themselves in is proving a challenge for everybody so we'll do everything we can thank you.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

This is the Committee on Equity and Inclusion, so thank you for being willing to work and make sure that people have access to voting rights no matter how vulnerable they are, what kind of situation they're and thank you all for starting the process and being willing to work with agencies as well and thank you to my colleagues for being able to support this. I will entertain a motion to table so that we can work on some of the logistics get everything cleaned up and then hear it in a couple of weeks.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

And yeah, I'll make the motion table, but I do want to encourage we'll make the connections so you all can talk through things. I know chairman,

Arthur and I are going to talk about some of the language and sort of finalize some of that is frankly dependent on some of the logistics frankly and some of the legal issues that you were talking about. So we will smooth things over so you all have the right connections and can create a working group or whatever needs to be done and we'll support that as well, so a motion to table.

"Campbell, Stephanie"

I do want to make a point to say that the last day to request is October 25th, so, I'd like, we can exchange our contact information so, we can make sure we get that in before the deadline.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

That would be great. So, director, Collins, whatever we can do in the short term for before we obviously create a much more robust process. Right? Whatever we can do in the short term to facilitate this for those with the last day being your toward the end of this month again, let's make that a priority and then we will follow up with ironing out the rest of the process. Yeah, of course.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

And before we table you, well, I just want to give a space to hear from the people who have we've been in corrections making sure the folks are registered, thank you for the shout out, I haven't been able to come over recently, but I just want to make sure that we have space for our guests who have been a part of that work. So, Doc, if you could just bring up your guests and just give us some remarks on that experience. And folks, hunger and appetite to be a part of the political process and state your name and organization for the records.

"McElroy, Shelton"

Thank you, Shelton McElroy, Savvy Shabazz has brought me, into the process. He's traveling right now. We've both been able to be accompanied by Dr. Leyderman into sales and dormitories, thus far out of 4 floors we've went into 1 and a half floors and out of approximately 2-250 people we've registered 49, so there was the question about the potential we would estimate at least 10% of the 1900 possibly eligible based off of the already amount that we've been able to register. What we can tell you is that when you walk in and Dr. Leyderman announces it, there are a large portion of people that are ineligible due to felony disenfranchisement. However, because we're talking about a high number of Pretrial incarcerated people, there are multiple people that raise their hand, and are avid voters that this would have been the first election that they would have missed and we are at the last hour, right? Because registration of these people ends on Tuesday, right? So so we still have over 1250 people to ask if they qualify and are interested to register, working with Dr. Leyderman I'm attempting to bring in volunteers as early as tomorrow 9:30 to 11:30, then come back with another wave from 1 to 2:30 I will say it's somewhat daunting because even when I'm talking to people that are expressively wanting to use their silver duty and vote, I don't have a certainty. They're registering. I mean, I've got 49 registration cards to hit the county clerk's office first thing in the morning and they don't know for certain if they're going to be able to vote. Now, I'll tell you in other cities, jails are polling locations, not

just for incarcerated people, but for correction officers and other staff in approximate proximity so, it's not atypical process to create a vote, a voting poll within an institution and I will applaud all the work and effort that's being done. But I will say there are men that vote and have voted that are waiting after they registered to vote, so there is fire. Thank you.

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Thank you, Vice chair.

"Piagentini, Anthony"
Thank you. Thank you. So quick follow up question, first of all, as far as the polling location, it speaks to, you know, there's all kinds of facility problems from a, from a built structure point of view over there that need to be addressed and I think we're going to have separate sort of long term discussions on that, but as far as the clerk's office is concerned, if somebody is in Pretrial incarceration, and they're already registered to vote, they don't need what's the story on them needing to re-register at that point they don't need to, correct?

"Campbell, Stephanie"
Yes, that's correct unless they changed their address.

"Piagentini, Anthony"
But if they're well, I guess that's my, that's what I want to clarify, right? To your point if I, you know, if I'm not in Pre trial incarceration, I moved from apartment A to apartment B, homemade, homemade, or vice, or whatever combination thereof. Obviously, I have to reregister because it's an address change, but my question is, again, I know it's not the same thing, I'm not making equivalencies, but I take it back to being in the military, when I was away I didn't re-register, right? I was an absentee ballot for that for my original residents. I look at Pretrial incarceration to some degree, that's not their home, that is where they currently are right, due to legal issues. So is there existing state law that says they have to re-register when they're in Pretrial incarceration?

"Campbell, Stephanie"
You don't have to re-register, you just want to make sure you get the correct ballot for your current residents where you're registered.

"Piagentini, Anthony"
So you can, so you can be considered an absentee ballot, again I'm talking Pretrial incarceration, not somebody who's been convicted in their serving a sentence, right? But for Pretrial incarceration, they are absentee don't need to re-register they need to get the ballot from their original home location because that's going to have their, again, assuming they're getting released to their home, the representatives for their residents, right?

"Campbell, Stephanie"
Correct.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Okay. Thank you.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

I just want to give it space to shout out to all the organizations and the partners willing to work with us to make this happen. All of Us Or None of Us, also shoutout to Vocal Kentucky. Could you just real quick plug when people want to volunteer to help with this effort? Where should they go to a website or a number? How do they plug in with you all?

"McElroy, Shelton"

Yeah, thank you, thank you for that opportunity. So you mentioned all of us are none who Savvy Shabazz leads, Vocal KY, Shameka Parrish-Wright, ACLU, lots of organizations continue to move the work of expanding voting versus contracting voting, and specifically for persons impacted by mass incarceration, we have lots of young people that have never voted that also registered. So those would be new registrations. I want to lift that up as well, and you can find out more about how to one, educate people about the governor's executive order that restored voting rights for over 200,000 Kentuckians by going to KFTW website you can find out more about that as well So Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. And I hope I answered your question.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Thank you so much. And then I also just add, as you heard, the deadline is coming up, govoteKY.com, still works and we'll forward you to take care of any registration needs signing up to work the polls and so forth so, motion to table?

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Motion to table.

"Kramer, Kevin"

Second.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Motion by Piagentini, seconded by Kramer all in favor say, aye? Thank you so much and thank you all for your work and thank you for being here for the rest of committee, we are going to have a special discussion about budget equity goals as most of us remember, in early 2021, we unanimously passed an ordinance requiring city agencies to have racial equity goals, all of which are attached to the city budget. Unfortunately, we only get those updates when myself or Councilwoman Paula McCraney might ask about that during the budget process so we're starting a tradition hopefully, we'll hear more about those goals throughout the year before we get to the budget cycle and we're going to kick that off today with a handful of agencies. So, shout out to Chief Meeks for being here and for organizing. Please introduce your guest and then we'll get into it.

"Meeks, Michael"

Thank you, Michael Meeks Chief Equity officer, today we are here with, several agencies to get an update on their equity progress, we're here with the air pollution control district, Animal services, civic information and technology, codes and regulations, corrections, and

criminal justice commission. So, by ordinance, as you said, each agency is required to have equity impact statements and this is the 1st cohort we've got 6 agencies and by the end of this year, we hope to have all of the rest of the agencies before this committee, so, each agency today was going to present a very brief presentation, and we'll start out with animal services I'm sorry with the air pollution control.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

All right, thank you. Don't forget your name your agency and show off. We look forward to hear updates about what you've been working on.

"Hamilton, Rachel"

I am Rachel Hamilton and I'm the director of global metro air pollution control district and I appreciate the opportunity to come speak with you today. So the Louisville metro air pollution control, district implements the federal, clean, clean air act here in Louisville. And our mission is to protect air quality in Louisville Metro to insure healthy air for breathing, economic security and prosperity for all the billions.

It's a big definition I do want to point out that our equity vision adopts USPCA definition of environmental justice and that's a concept that is part of our daily work. I do want to be clear. This is a work in progress and for the 1st time since Bill Clinton signed the executive order for environmental justice in 1994. There is funding through the American rescue plan. The inflation reduction act and there are efforts being made across us CPA, and even in our own community for just as 40 to put some meat on the bones and to really implement environmental justice as a practice, not just as an executive order on a piece of paper some examples where the districts work is leading in this area our Star program, the strategic toxic air reduction program goes beyond the federal air toxics program. We have near real time air toxics monitoring at our Algonquin Parkway station. Our clearing the air workshops, which were our award winning from our partners at the Association for air pollution control agencies and our risk management plan, or chemical accident prevention program, which goes beyond the federal current. Program. We've included our fiscal year, 23 goals. Those are the things that we're currently working on so we want to go ahead and let, you know, those as we speak today. We added to our permitting process last year enhanced notice provisions really identifying for people what we think are concerns so that when they receive the notice from it they'll have an idea before they even have to explore whether it's of concern. We're going to add that same level to our non permitting notice processes this would include our rulemaking and some of our enforcement actions as well. Goal 2: continue to recommend land development code revisions, focusing on environmental justice and air quality during the phase 2 amendments of the land development code reform and as I mentioned, we're beginning to see concepts of environmental justice throughout much of the country. On a summit this past weekend with the NAACP and the West Jefferson County community task force land development is being recognized more and more as an important area for environmental justice and your alls leadership shows, an amazing amount of foresight in asking our land development partners to look at their processes. Our third goal this year is to foster an informed community. We're very fortunate here to have a very engaged environmental advocacy partnership out there and we want to support that work through our programs and policies to improve their

quality and environmental equity, so we'll continue to participate in at least 20 community meetings and hold for clearing the air workshops in fiscal year 2023. Finally, our last call we'll set a goal for tracking and improving our supplier diversity this year. Our fiscal year 2022 goals, not accomplished. We were unable to meet our goal to hold for clearing the air workshops last year. Part of that is due to covid 19 and continuing difficulties there with pulling groups of people together. And some staffing issues, but our first, clearing the air workshop for 2023 will actually be next week. So, we look forward to that we are on track, we were on track last year with our community meetings, and we're on track with our community meetings again this year. Finally, you'll see this one we've recycled this 1 into our fiscal year 2023 goals and again, we missed this goal last year so we have added it to our fiscal 23 goals to be sure that we completed and we will re, engage with O and B, to be sure that we have adequate supplier diversity in our purchasing. We received some very thoughtful recommendations from the office of equity and the following slides will provide some examples of our ongoing efforts to incorporate these recommendations into our work. So, for APCD our regulations set the standards and limits that go into our permits. that's really what reduces air pollution here in Louisville so there is a link I brought it as a visual aid there is a link to a regulatory impact assessment for our risk management plan program and that's our chemical accident prevention provisions were 1 of 9 agencies across the country who have retained delegation of the RMP programme, which we believe is critically important because of the sources that we have located in rubber town, and the community that surrounds them and so rather than leave this to you, who hopes to inspect 3% of the RMP facilities each year. We believe it's important to have that program here in Louisville. We did a rulemaking and went beyond the federal program and that regulatory impact assessment incorporates elements from our use of the racial equity tool, so, if you'll look through that, when you have a chance, you'll see where that not only has guided our work but has been incorporated into our public rulemaking process and made a part of our decision making process, and our conversations with the air pollution control board. I hope you've seen some of our outreach on social media, including Twitter, and a Facebook page we today I have shared some information about odors and in order to try to make us our data, we are very data heavy APCD in order to try to make that data more accessible to the public we've developed some new dashboards you can look up emissions inventory, information odor complaint information and more recently, excess emission events, and we hope this will give people more information about sources that may be near their homes without having to submit an open records request because we know we have a lot of information on our website. We've also conveniently put that on a global air quality data web page. I think this is one of the places where work is really supported by our community members we have key collaborations with many partners as I mentioned before this past weekend, we participated with the environmental justice conference that the West Jefferson community task Force in the NAACP in held and I'm also very proud to say that a number of APCD staff attended that workshop and were able to hear an amazing group of speakers and hear about the work going on here in Louisville by our other partners. We supported the West Jefferson County community task force in their grant submittal.

to EPA, for funding under the American rescue plan and then we ourselves have applied to EPA for community or lending library that would allow us to create a program where people would be able to on a rotating basis, acquire this equipment meet with APCD use us as the experts to put that equipment in the field and then assist them with data analysis at the neighborhood level. We understand from our partners at EPA that the decision making on this funding opportunity is eminent but in EPA speak, that may mean this week and it may mean December, we will let, you know, we're looking forward to hearing ourselves. Finally we have excuse me an ongoing collaboration with, and their office of research and development in Research Triangle, North Carolina.

We brought them here to explore next generation emissions, measuring equipment that would help evaluate emissions at the fence line and also odors our work with them continues they find our location to be very fortunate for them and we have really had a major amount of collaboration with them it's gone into, I think four different projects now, so that's a beneficial to the district and its very beneficial to our community. These are just a few examples that I've brought to you today and I do have more but, respectfully, I want to thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to come and speak to you today.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Thank you I have a quick question, then I'll jump to a committee member. I'm curious about the community meetings, and those are 2 way streets if you're just presenting information or if you have groups of advocates that are coming to you with policy suggestions that you then hopefully bring forth to the council or, you know implement within your department, could you just talk a little bit about those partnerships in those community meetings and the purpose with those?

"Hamilton, Rachel"

I'd be happy to. So our rule making body is the air pollution control board and the board itself provides an open opportunity at every meeting for the public to come and speak to them on any topic so there's that one opportunity that the board provides. For APCD we are asked often to come and present but we also go to meetings. We regularly attend the meetings of the West Jefferson County community Taskforce, the rubber town Council advisory council meetings because that's their space and we're not a member of those organizations we are there to hear those collaborative meetings and we will definitely meet with anyone who wants to come in and speak with us on any topic. So, it's not a one way street at all. It is an open collaboration. We also have partnerships with us CPA they have a regional environmental justice group that meets quarterly and includes other stakeholders from the community. So it's a big conversation going on right now. And I look forward to, you, I think right now our work is a little challenging and has been challenging because there hasn't been funding to really help focus work, the funding that's available right now isn't just for an agency, it is for the community there are going to be a number of community led projects and opportunities that we hope will be able to drive our work just as the West Jefferson County community tasks forces 1,001,000 study The Western lawyer, toxic study really drove the development of the strategic toxic air reduction programme.

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Committee member, George.

"George, Nicole"
Thank you chair and thank you Director Hamilton. I'm gonna say, in the way of, like, community engagement, I really appreciate all you guys have done, particularly when we had the all next staggering spill, you guys did an excellent job coming out to help educate and provide support. Also you work with heavy truck parking, and also with the environmental injustice for those who live closest to our house ramps, you've been really helpful in participating and advising in that way. I'm interested to know if there are opportunities to advance equity through the fines that are levied for instances of violations, I'll leave it open ended.

"Hamilton, Rachel"
So our fines are authorized under KRS 77.9990. they are assessed by the district and they are funding to the district through that statute. With respect to how we assess those civil penalties, we do use civil penalty policy which allows us to, for example, elevated penalty for someone who is a repeat offender. We do take history of noncompliance into account when we set those civil penalties.

"George, Nicole"
May ask a follow up? I guess the question is. The finds that come in though, they, they're used broadly across the agency and not within the area that was impacted it from that validation, is that correct?

"Hamilton, Rachel"
That's how they're used, that is correct but there is also something called a supplemental environmental project or a set steps can be a way to return some of that funding to the community there are guidance documents, of course, that help guide us with that work. I'd be happy to talk to you some more about that.

"George, Nicole"
I mean, I think just generally the community may be interested to know if there are if you see opportunities to advance equity through again fines, and particularly how those funds are used to the communities that are most directly impacted by whatever violation occurred. Thank you.

"Hamilton, Rachel"
Thank you.

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Thank you so much because of time we'll go ahead and hear from codes and rags and shout out to everyone else that was here. My bad air pollution could you please come back? We'll go to the vice chair, but I just wanted to because the time we'll have others, hopefully you can come back in a couple of weeks and then, well, here, quick question, then we'll jump to Codes and Recs.

"Piagentini, Anthony"
When you talk about land development, would that include because I'm looking at issues of, for example, and this is much more prominent in the

West end, but this has bubbled up in recent conversations in the East end and that is the proximity of certain industrial and commercial uses to residential neighborhoods. So, are we looking at related to your, the land development or 2.0 reforms? Things like buffer zones related to land development use in relation to residential areas?

330 "Bennett, Olivia" (2402371584)

"Hamilton, Rachel"

So, in the cornerstone 2040 Plan 2040 work the recommendations in there regarding your quality. Include establishing buffers from industrial uses and that's important not just for air quality. I do want to put a pin that with respect to the star program we evaluate emissions on residential property you have to meet certain standards associated with that land use but there are cumulative impacts that aren't all air quality that those buffers can help address and that includes noise, pollution and light pollution. It can include ways to reroute traffic to avoid the impacts that councilwoman George mentioned with heavy duty trucks so, that land use has an opportunity to really impact not just physical health, but quality of life for folks who live near industrial properties.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Thank you so much. We're here from my next victim. Okay, before you get into it, can we have council member McCraney turn your camera on please. Thank you so much.

"Kirchdofer, Robert"

Good afternoon, Robert Kirchdofer, director of codes and regulations. Thanks for having me here this afternoon. Just to give you a quick update on this, sorry about that, codes and regulations in our equity vision statement, the Department of regular codes and regulations committed, advancing racial equity in our community, the office will form inspections, abatement, services and permitting licensing activities, utilizing equity lens with the goal of achieving a Co, compliant community for all. Our goal one when implementing or altering programs, perform a review of policy and procedures utilizing the racial equity tool kit. This past year, we use the tool kit when we looked at changing our annual cut list it's the last date in vacant properties where we can go in and send one notice out to an individual property owner that owns a property that wasn't maintained and we had abatement services the previous year. We use the tool kit on that, because we were looking at the areas there this applies to all of Jefferson County. However, we use the tool kit, mainly because we knew we have a higher concentration of vacant, random properties in the Western Louisville and this would make the quality of life if we made these changes that we went from 3 to 2, and we increased our, annual list, the notices of 450 properties that would mean more cuttings more cleanings it would really help the neighborhoods and mostly minorities in that area there. So, you know, their quality of life so that was one of the toolkits that we used on making that change. Went back and go to an 23 we schedule all divisions, department and department for equity training through the office equity. Last year, we were trying to achieve this and with covid raising back and said, and not going away we weren't able to get that that done. However, this year we've been working with the office equity met with them this

week, and it looks like we'll have the training starting if everything goes right probably in January of this year to try to get our major divisions everybody trained, because we're a department of 200+ people, and it's going to be several trainings we're looking at more of trying to get, you know, each division 4 major divisions there was probably going to be 4 to 5 trainings and trying to get everybody, you know, through the training retrained. Back in 2017 we did have all of our staff go through advancing racial equity training. However, we've had a lot of turnover and additional people added and stuff so we're looking forward to have that completed this year that go met. Also, one of our goals, this year was maintained diversity in the department that mirrors is more diverse in Jefferson County and we are Jefferson county area we are more diverse if you look at the study there that, and we're more diverse than metro as a whole currently our department we're at 57% white and 40%, black employees staff members 1% at 1.8%, Asian and 1.08%, Hispanic, so, we intend to maintain that, you know, at that level. Equity update also too I mean, I can say this and the code enforcement, especially our property maintenance side looking at equity and stuff, there's some challenges there that we have you know, a code that's out there, that spells out property violations when you go by and you look at a property you look at it and, you know, it's either a violation or not. I mean, there's some gray area in there and stuff, so we've always struggled with that and we've tried, I think we've had policies with staff have its owner occupied and you try to work with them they're in years past we've looked at tall grass. Do we need to tell people they need to cut their grass when it's over 10 inches tall? I mean, you know, the grass is tall. There's always a problem somebody's lawnmower anybody can appeal any of our citations to the code board explain that and there's a process there. But, you know, we've went in and we sent members through community I'm trying to large group I always get mixed up on Wednesday fast, but can we housing and community services division their group and we sent some leadership team, Phil Crowe, my assistant director attended the vacant and property leadership Institute this past year in February, they Robert other contingent that attended that, and that was hosted by the center of community progress in partnership with the National League of cities, and as a result of that attendance we were 1 of 3 delegations that attended that also applied for and received a 100 hours grant from the center of community progress of technical systems customized Laura Rabowski got back from that and said, hey, Robert, what do you think, I said, I would love to get some help from somebody that had on our equity in code enforcement, you know, to look at that. So, that's what we focused on we choose we chose, technical system reviewing its code enforcement process through lens of racial equity, examining how to apply strategic and more equity approach to code enforcement to its vacant abandoned tearing properties. So, with that group, they had met with the community service I mean progress and, you know, they met with a lot of key stakeholders from different departments. Our process, it's not just codes and regs. It goes through it touches a lot of other agencies than the process that we do from the leans that are filed that's over OMB accounts receivable. So they remembers we had folks from the health department, Metro Council I know that you're over invited to the workshop that we had there, I think Councilwoman George was there most of the morning and it intended. We had a good turnout, I thought it was great we had a lot of our staff there, and we covered a lot of items there, and I think it really opened her

eyes Phil has been back he's attended the most recent conference to in another 1 then you know, we're, we're trying to do things so, from that. We have the full report out and we could come back with Laura and stuff if somebody wanted to have a full report from that and it's also out on the community for center of progress website, but, you know, the strategy changes implemented, I can turn it over to Phil Crow right now, because he spearheaded that to get these things implemented implemented from that, they'll go ahead.

"Crowe, Phil"

Phil Crowe, assistant director of department of rules and regulations. So, as Robert mentioned, we did meet with some folks in the center for community progress in June in our workshop we were focused on center and equity and strategic code enforcement by using the equity till with our annual cut list we realized that a lot of those properties the majority of at 1500 properties is in the Western Louisville and so we figured that's where the vacant properties are. We figured out, but. figured out but that the majority of our cases, and property maintenance are also in those same neighborhoods with the majority of residents are nonwhite or Hispanic and also the lower medium household incomes and so along with more cases comes more citations and so we were trying to figure out how we could be more of a help and export in those neighborhoods rather than being the and fortunately, just coming in, and sometimes we were just part of the problem so, we did some work and we studied and we changed some policies and I won't touch on all of them. They're on the wall there, but we changed we created a public nuisance type report where in our work we always go out and cite violations and then we're just trying to go up here and get through the next complaint, to the next case so we created an effort to have our inspectors citing nuisance violations they're alerted on a date that that's up, due, to go back just like what our annual cut lists we grew it, we wanted to keep them clean every 30 days to provide a better living conditions for the neighbors in the community we wanted to get back on those violations and ensure that property owners and tenants were indeed abating those violations and also allowed us to historically, on nuisance violations we would immediately issue citations on property owners. You know, we came out if your grants was how the property was open you vandalized we would, we would immediately issue a citation because we didn't know when we were coming back and so we wanted an issue citation or citation with an idea, was to encourage you to comply so you didn't get other other citations and we would create a work order and our folks would come out later to make the validation. With that report also we were able to develop and additional citations, if we talk to property owners or wherever, it can determine in these neighborhoods we let them make and properties a lot of rental properties and so there's a lot of illegal dumping you hear from other departments about that all the time and so we come out and someone has a property, and maybe a rental that's set vacant for a few weeks and someone comes in and dumps on it. So, not only do they have the headache of trying to clean that property, but we come along and issue with citation for being a victim. So we changed that to our officers able to talk to them, create a work order and just, we'll make them aware and send a notice a violation that it needs to be cleaned, but then we, we don't issue a citation and we send it over to our banking loss division who will eventually come out and verify if it's not mentioning, we will

clean it, but it's just an effort to let those folks who are trying to provide affordable housing or rental housing in those neighborhoods to spend their resources maintaining their properties, rather than paying fines and had to clean their properties. We've also changed our policies for abating violations and continuing citations during the appeal process, we have a lot of folks who we would go out and issue citations and they would appeal it and so for us, traditionally, we would stay enforcement while it was under the appeal and so what would happen is a lot of folks, you know, they don't live in those neighborhoods they don't live in the communities and so if they're cited for dumping or graffiti or junk cars, they would leave it because they knew they had 6, 7, 8 weeks before they had to hearing so we weren't coming back. We've changed that policy now, so we issue the citation and if they appeal it, and they argue that that citation did not exist then okay, well, I don't have their day and we quicken the pace on their hearing, but otherwise we going out and we have made the violation if they don't. So we'll issue the referral we'll issue the citation, you can appeal it, you'll have your day to appeal to try to get your citation waived, but we are coming out and we're beating those violations so the neighbors aren't living with those for months while it's tied up in administrative hearings. So the whole goal is just trying to help the neighbors, make it better quality of life, maintain their property values without creating more properties on our annual cut list. Historically, we've got properties out there with tens of thousands of dollars of liens. Some properties may have, you know, there may be a chance to the family member that once that property, but they're not going to be able to get it. If we continue to come along in pounds citations. So, we're just trying to be code encouragement and code engagement rather than enforcement, and just trying to be more effective and equitable with our resources and communities.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Last budget, we had to tie, like, dollar amounts to some of these goals after you went through the toolkit, and you added those 450 properties was that enough that you set aside? Or were you as far as meeting the need?

"Kirchdorfer, Robert"

That was the hard that's the hard part on this. I mean, when we used to the equity toolkit, it was hard to put a dollar figure in there. We didn't ask for additional money there was no additional money in the previous year, a year, and a half ago mid year when Council gave us additional staff for vacant lodge crew we increased it. We got 28 new members that led us to establish multiple crews that we needed to meet the expectations. So we had that money there and the equipment, the first year took a while to get equipment. This year we went out of the gates really with the full equipment, and, you know, when staffing, because that first, year when we got into it, it was really mid mid season and the equipment still wasn't coming in we were running around with other stuff trying to make do with what we had and vehicles and stuff, but we started this year out running. We still had some problems with covid early in the year, but, you know, staff was fully there. Now, we've just been filling positions as people move on, so we didn't really ask there wasn't any really additional monies, added to that.

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Committee Member George.

"George, Nicole"
Thank you chair and thank you director for being here. I was just going to add that in terms of the equity update I think I missed the piece about the proactive inspections we hope to see as part of the update to the rental registry, thank you.

"Arthur, Jecorey"
Thank you. All right, well, thank you so much and again, thank you for the office equity for coordinating what everyone I'm sorry we weren't able to hear them all today, but all of the updates are attached to the agenda. So, we'll keep working with you to hear from other agencies for the remainder of the year. Thank you for your work. No more business we're adjourned. Thank you all.