



Louisville Metro Government

601 W. Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Action Summary - Tentative Committee on Equity and Inclusion

Chair Paula McCraney (D-7)

Vice Chair Anthony Piagentini (R-19)

Committee Member Barbara Shanklin (D-2)

Committee Member Jecorey Arthur (D-4)

Committee Member Kevin Kramer (R-11)

Committee Member Markus Winkler (D-17)

Committee Member Amy Holton Stewart (D-25)

Thursday, June 17, 2021

3:30 PM

Council Chambers/Virtual

THIS IS CONSIDERED A SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order

Chair McCraney called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

Roll Call

Chair McCraney introduced the committee and non-committee members present. A quorum was established.

***NOTE: All committee members and non-committee members present attended virtually, except for the following who attended in Chambers:**

- Chair McCraney
- Vice Chair Piagentini
- Committee Member Kramer
- Council President James
- Council Member Hollander
- Council Member George

Present: 6 - Committee Member Barbara Shanklin (D-2), Committee Member Jecorey Arthur (D-4), Chair Paula McCraney (D-7), Committee Member Kevin Kramer (R-11), Committee Member Markus Winkler (D-17), and Vice Chair Anthony Piagentini (R-19)

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Amy Holton Stewart (D-25)

Non-Committee Member(s)

Council President David James (D-6), Council Member Cassie Chambers Armstrong (D-8), Council Member Bill Hollander (D-9), and Council Member Nicole George (D-21)

Support Staff

Natalie Johnson, Jefferson County Attorney's Office

Clerk(s)

Sonya Harward, Clerk

Pending Legislation

1. [O-260-21](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING LOUISVILLE METRO CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 92 TO ADD A DEFINITION OF NATIONAL ORIGIN WHICH INCLUDES NATURAL HAIR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CROWN ACT.

Sponsors: Primary Jecorey Arthur (D-4), Primary Keisha Dorsey (D-3), Primary Jessica Green (D-1), Primary Paula McCraney (D-7), Primary Donna L. Purvis (D-5), Additional David James (D-6), Additional Anthony Piagentini (R-19), Additional Barbara Shanklin (D-2) and Additional Bill Hollander (D-9)

Attachments: [O-260-21 V.1 061021 Crown Act.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Piagentini, seconded by Committee Member Kramer, that this Ordinance be recommended for approval.

The following spoke to this item:

- Committee Member Arthur
- Chair McCraney
- Vice Chair Piagentini
- Committee Member Shanklin

Council Member Hollander requested to be a co-sponsor.

The following was discussed:

- Explained that this Ordinance was to protect Black people from discrimination in regards to their natural hair and the way they wear their hair
- Passed in other states, and local support for the change in the law
- Experiences when wearing hair in natural styles
- Programs made regarding the history of discrimination against Black men and women and what they have done to assimilate due to discrimination

The motion carried by the following vote and the Ordinance was sent to the Consent Calendar:

Yes: 6 - Shanklin, Arthur, McCraney, Kramer, Winkler, and Piagentini

Excused: 1 - Holton Stewart

Special Discussion

2. [ID 21-0747](#)

Critical Race Theory: What's It All About - Diane Porter, Jefferson County Public School Board; and Cedric M. Powell, University of Louisville

Attachments: [Email from GLI 6-15-21.pdf](#)

Chair McCraney introduced the topic and guest speakers, Cedric Powell and Diane Porter, then read a statement from Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI) (attached hereto).

The following also spoke to this item:

- Cedric Powell, University of Louisville
- Diane Porter, Jefferson County Public School Board
- Chair McCraney
- Committee Member Arthur
- Abby Piper, Jefferson County Public Schools ("JCPS")
- Vice Chair Piagentini
- Council President James

The following was discussed:

- What Critical Race Theory is, and it being over 30 years old and usually taught in Law school and graduate courses
- Needing a full accounting of history to understand America's past, present, and future
- Components of Critical Race Theory
- Current legislative attempts to constitutionalize stereotypical depictions of race in society, and under-mind Critical Race Theory
- Actively engages the history of America and how it plays out
- Why the discussion of race is so difficult
- JCPS and the University of Louisville to offer a college level 'Introduction to Black Studies' course for high school students
- JCPS's Diversity and Equity Department and the timeline for the development of certain goals related to racial equity
- Email from a constituent regarding teaching Critical Race Theory in schools
- Whether Critical Race Theory and Black History are mutually exclusive
- Why teaching Critical Race Theory is so controversial
- Impact on teaching Critical Race Theory outside of schools if proposed legislation is passed in Kentucky
- Quotes read by various authors and discussion as to whether the quotes are accurate as to what Critical Race Theory teaches
- Wealth in various households by race, and who did and did not benefit from certain laws created in the past
- Whether JCPS teaches Critical Race Theory
- Whether all Black studies would be eliminated if the proposed legislation passes
- Impact the proposed legislation has on Black History Month in the Commonwealth

Adjournment

Without objection, Chair McCraney adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Note: Items sent to the Consent Calendar or Old Business will be heard before the full Council at the Metro Council meeting on June 24, 2021.