

**City of Missoula, Montana
New Business Item**

Item: Joint City-County Advisory Board (JEDI)

Council Meeting

Date: January 23, 2023

Sponsor(s): Donna Gaukler; Alex Lawson

Prepared by: Claire Trimble

Ward(s) Affected:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Action Required:

Adopt a Resolution creating, in partnership and collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners, a joint City-County JEDI Advisory Board to assist the City and County in meeting goals related to equity in delivery of and provision of local government services.

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council:

Adopt a resolution of the Missoula City Council to establish a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Joint City County Advisory Board and name Wilena Old Person, Dexter Royes, and Rajiem Seabrook to the Task Force developing the board bylaws and membership selection criteria.

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Resolution 8533 passed in August 2021 establishing the City's commitment to a Just, Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive (JEDI) Missoula included support for the county-led effort to create a JEDI Advisory board. This board in combination with community convenings are key engagement tools that will advance JEDI efforts, engage and connect community with resources, and align our JEDI efforts with community partners' efforts. One of the transformative action strategies recommended in the Listening, Engaging, Action, Reflection, Network (LEARN) audit was "Include BIPOC voices and perspectives in policy decisions. Connect with and collaborate with BIPOCs prior to making impactful decisions" (p. 124). An advisory board not only applies this recommendation, but also removes the barrier of direct access to government officials for residents from numerous diverse populations, especially those historically underrepresented and most adversely affected by disparities, thereby engaging them more fully in the decision-making process. A voluntary working group began their efforts toward creation of this advisory board in Spring 2021 as part of the National League of Cities Cohort Road Map which aims to ensure all residents feel safe, valued, welcome, and experience a sense of belonging. The working group was first hosted by Jamar Galbreath, County Equity Coordinator, and that work was continued by Roz Haley after Jamar's departure. Initially, the resolution provides for a three-member task force that will have a 12-month period to develop bylaws and a formal recruitment and selection process for prospective Board members. The task force will be led by Wilena Old Person, Dexter Royes, and Rajiem Seabrook, per concurrence by the three and affirmation of the working group. The City was represented in the working group by a member of the City's JEDI Strategic Implementation Work Team. The proposal before Council today is to affirm continued support for formalizing a joint City-County JEDI Advisory Board.

Financial Implications:

Ongoing staff support is the primary expense.

Links to external websites:

Click or tap here to enter text.