

News

DEI Initiatives Update - August 3, 2020



August 3, 2020

This information will be shared tonight at the City Council meeting during the City Manager's Report. [Participate.](#)

At the Monday, June 15, 2020 Council Meeting, the City Council [approved an immediate action plan](#) to address systemic racism and injustice in Mill Valley.

The plan included the establishment of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force to review and develop additional actions, investigate best practices, and make specific recommendations to Council for next steps.

Council tasked a working group of 2 councilmembers to manage the project and put out a call to the community for participation in the DEI Task Force and recommendations for facilitators.

Since our last update on July 20, the working group has:

- Continued to receive emails indicating interest in DEI Task Force participation. Over 50 people have indicated interest in participating.
- Interviewed close to a dozen highly qualified facilitator candidates for consideration.
- Last week, [the City announced](#) that we have contracted with Patricia Patton, Ph.d, to design and facilitate the Task Force. Dr. Patton will guide the Task Force in engaging community members and key stakeholders in a variety of activities and recommend and offer solutions for addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion issues with a specific emphasis on Black Lives Matter, racial injustices and inequities in Mill Valley.

Next steps include:

- Organizing a representative group of community members who are committed to working together.
- Creating forums for community members to share their experiences, recommendations, and proposed solutions for addressing the issues of inequities and injustices affecting Black and people of color in Mill Valley.
- A key aspect to the formation of the Task Force will be representation of minority groups, advocacy group members, and other residents who give voice to the wider community.
- Finalization of the Professional Service Agreement (PSA) between the City and Dr. Patton, which will include the Scope of Work and compensation.
- Developing the timeline for work to begin.
- Dr. Patton will be introduced to the community at the next upcoming City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

We welcome Dr. Patton to Mill Valley and look forward to working with her in the months to come!

We acknowledge the community's sense of urgency, and desire for transparency and accountability regarding the establishment of the DEI Task Force. We affirm our commitment to make meaningful progress and to devote the time and resources to do so quickly and thoughtfully.

Update on City DEI Initiatives:

After the June 15 City Council meeting, City Manager Piombo directed City Department Heads to conduct internal reviews of current City programs and policies related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Since the last City Council meeting:

- July 21, 2020 - The Arts Commission installed a new wrapping on the signal change box on the corner of E. Blithedale and Camino Alto with Black Lives Matter artwork.
- July 22, 2020 - The Housing Advisory Committee held a meeting, attended by over 20 community members, and discussed an overview of the 2 Year Work Plan and other affordable housing initiatives in Mill Valley.
- July 23, 2020 - Mill Valley Recreation and Play Marin collaborated on a golf experience "to provide sports activities to intentionally give kids of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds the opportunity to learn and grow together through play" at the Mill Valley Golf Course.
- July 27, 2020 - City released news item on voting resources to inform and encourage BIPOC participation in local government
- Promoted a number of forums on issues of importance, such as a presentation on Drake Boulevard History, public forum on Racism at the TUHSD, and a Community Conversation on COVID-19 outbreak prevention in the San Rafael Canal area.
- At least a dozen City staff from our Public Works, City Manager/Human Resources and Recreation Departments have taken, or are taking this week, trainings on issues of racial bias, inequity and discrimination.

Upcoming meetings that may be of interest include:

- Tonight's City Council meeting will have a presentation and report on the Mill Valley Police Department's use of force training and policy.
- Parks and Recreation Commission will have an update on DEI initiatives at their upcoming meeting on August 5, 2020 at 6:30 pm.
- Public Forum on racism in the Tamalpais United High School District on August 5 at 6:00 pm.

There is more information on other actions, and they can be found at the DEI Task Force webpage, www.cityofmillvalley.org/dei. You can also sign up for updates to stay up to date.

We will continue to have updates on DEI initiatives at every City Council meeting moving forward as part of the City Manager's report.

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City of Mill Valley



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Phone: (415) 388-4033

Hours: 8:00a.m. - 12:00 noon;

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