



Diversity Council
Special Meeting Minutes – Panel Discussion
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:30pm
Hybrid - In-Person and Zoom Meeting
Bristol Public Library Meeting Room 3

Attendees:

Jaymie Bianca – Chair (Zoom), Council Members Marcus Patton and David MacGregor Rackliffe

Absent: Council Members Alison Rae Willette, Jeffrey Israel, Mohammed Aziz and Sebastian Panioto – City Council Liaison

Guests: Michael Tingley, City of Bristol Project Coordinator – BEST Coalition
Julianna Iacovelli, UCONN student, teacher, writer and LGBTQ+ Activist
Luis Perez of Bristol, CT – Public Participation (Zoom)
Sandra Kamens of Bristol, CT – BEST Coalition and Opioid Task Force Member

1. Call to Order

Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. A quorum was not present or needed as no voting was taking place at this Panel Discussion.

2. Panel Discussion

Jaymie Bianca welcomed the Panel Guests and those in attendance to the Pride Month Panel Discussion hosted by the Diversity Council. The Panel introduced themselves and then began a discussion led by Jaymie as the moderator.

Questions fielded by the panelists included their experiences as members of the LGBTQ+ community both while growing up and in the present climate, their concerns and hopes for the community, especially within the City of Bristol, and opportunities and resources they believe are needed and would be helpful.

A common concern among the panelists, as well as those in attendance, is the suicide rate across all ages in the LGBTQ+ community and the need for overall improved mental health that comes with support, understanding, acceptance and respect for diversity. The use of pronouns was also explored, as was the trend of recent laws being passed to ban LGBTQ+

City of Bristol

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language and existence, and how these uncertainties affect people's state of mind and quality of living. It was noted that Bristol doesn't have a place for the LGBTQ+ community to socialize, and residents travel to Hartford to meet that need. They'd welcome a gathering place in town, even starting with a themed night at a local establishment with funds being raised for the Trevor Project.

Public Participants Luis Perez and Sandra Kamens, along with Council Members Patton and MacGregor Rackliffe participated in the discussion when opened up by the Moderator.

3. Adjournment

Jaymie Bianca closed the Panel Discussion at 7:46pm

Please note: To view the panel discussion in its entirety, please click on the link below and use the provided password to access the recording. This recording will be available for 45 days.

https://bristolct.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/7zvqxGEWE6bzupD8HRlykB0h5t_DMG6VHrMpqdCOQ5tNdGagyDQZyMJRkGroLVGp.dGWCBjeh29jlzP_d?startTime=1687298655000

Passcode: A1P^jr!&

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Sr. Administrative Assistant