

MEMORANDUM
Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Thursday, Sep 23rd, 2021

Per IC 5-14-1.5-3.7, this meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom.

This meeting called to order: 12:08 p.m.

Commission members present via Zoom: Kamala Brown-Sparks, Alex Mann, Renee Miller, Nejla Routsong, and Jon Wunrow. Nicole Johnson joined at 12:11, making a quorum.

Commission members absent: Arvind Jagdish, Matthew Diaz

City staff and officials present: Rebekka Boustani

INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 8/26 MEETING: motion made, 2nded, and unanimously approved.

12:18 INTRODUCTION: Commissioner Johnson introduces Jada Bee, member of Core Council at BLM Bloomington and co-founder of The Peoples' Market.

12:20 PRESENTATION by Jada Bee:

- The prejudices that challenge pioneering into a space, for ex: as a Black speaker at this commission
- Layla Saad's definition of White Supremacy as the dominant paradigm in our culture, not a fringe belief
- White privilege is separate from, but can intersect with, other privileges
- BLM Bloomington core council and Peoples' Market were able to begin with non-hierarchical systems because they first understood white supremacy
- Hate speech vs. Free speech: hate speech is often acted upon
- Edgar Villanueva's Decolonizing Wealth Project as a manual for orgs:
<https://decolonizingwealth.com/>
- Disproportionate amount of white people still hold most positions of power behind the scenes: who decides what TV shows or music are available to watch and listen to? Who are our teachers?
- Jada shared her credentials as an anti-racist activist confronting White Supremacy
- People of color are questioned on a daily basis about their competency despite their credentials
- History of BLM Bloomington
- BLM Bloomington decided to establish Working Agreements after it was necessary to remove a member of the core council
- Working Agreements are based on the 13 Guiding Principles of National BLM and a rejection of Command-and-Control approach
- Agreement within BLM core council is based on consensus-building
- Each consensus is evaluated through the lens of how do the different viewpoints support or threaten the Working Agreements and Guiding Principles

- As a multi-racial org, Peoples' Market formation faced different challenges than BLM Bloomington
- Loving Engagement vs perception of "Being Mean" in holding everybody accountable to the mission goals and values
- Explicit voting system part of non-hierarchical structure
- How to Move Through Conflict is an explicit process agreed upon by members. Meetings start with conflict resolution and/or restorative justice proposals
- Working Agreements as how things are actually run vs. Bylaws which are a legal requirement
- You can still prioritize voices that are traditionally marginalized in a horizontal structure
- The "Rule of 33" in space creation: "Diversity" is often code for Tokenism. Representation for (white) women does not equal diversity
- Jada suggested holding the current empty seats on CAPS for non-whites only
- CAPS needs to "head-hunt" for people of color
- Horizontal structures work best when there is racial parity
- Reading up on and studying Anti-Racism is necessary, but not simply in an academic vacuum

1:46 Q&A SESSION with Jada

1:56 Commissioner Miller offered a time-check

2:00 Madison Cox, journalism student at IU, asked for Jada's contact info for a follow-up on a story for class

2:02 Jada's final piece of advice to CAPS: achieving racial parity on the commission should be prioritized over establishing Bylaws and starting our work

2:09 Motion to schedule next work session approved for Oct 14

2:13 Meeting adjourned

Memorandum prepared by:
Alex Mann, Commission member