



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes AAMU SUBCOMMITTEE: BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

ALD. ASHANTI HAMILTON, CHAIR
*Joe Fahey, Pam Fendt, Curt Harris, Wendell Harris, Carl
Jaskolski, and Michael Rosen*

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Wednesday, May 11, 2011

1:00 PM

Room 301-A, City Hall

Meeting convened at 1:15 pm.

Members present:

*Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Pam Fendt, Carl Harris, Jim Carpenter (for Michael Rosen),
and Carl Jaskolski*

Members absent:

Joe Fahey and Wendell Harris

Other individual(s) present:

Jeff Lemon

1. Update on disparity study recommendations

Ald. Hamilton presented a slideshow handout concerning recommendations from the disparity study findings. This report focused mainly on the Emerging Business Enterprise and Residency Preference Program in ways of enhancing more ordinances and creating a race-conscience program that would address the inadequate use of minority communities. Recommendations outlined in the report include: changes in procedures and practices, implementation of a compliance monitoring tracking system, development and implementation of a race/gender-conscious program, monitoring expectations for M/W/SBE program, and enhancements to the proposed M/W/SBE program. (Exhibit 1)

2. David Reimer presentation

David Reimer, director of Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, presented data and information on poverty levels and the reduction of poverty percentages due to governmental policy. He shared that government policy, with its various programs in place, has helped reduce the poverty. However, he noted there was still a need to go beyond these government programs to further decrease poverty, create jobs, and create opportunity. An example is the development of transitional jobs as a way to develop job opportunities and reduce poverty. He spoke about the Transitional Jobs Program, a state program federally funded that focuses on minimum wage job creation in the private sector. Mr. Reimer said that the City can develop transitional jobs and a transitional job program. This program could be funded by the City itself through various means, such as add-ons to property taxing or voluntary deductions from payroll. (Exhibit 2)

Ald. Hamilton said that such a transitional jobs program could be categorized and funded from existing funds as an alternative to creating new sources of funding.

Mr. Jaskolski talked about some possible barriers to employment, such as human resource biases. He mentioned that other barriers included a person's lack of interview skills and soft skills.

3. John Conyer's Congressional Bill - Jim Carpenter

Jim Carpenter summarized a bill, introduced by Representative John Conyers, Jr., as a source of job creation. Called the "Humphrey 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act," this federal legislation would create a federal trust fund ("Full Employment and Training Trust Fund") with two accounts directing funding to job creation and training programs in the public sector. The first account would be distributed by a formula to municipalities for job creation with prevailing wages, targeting communities and people of unemployment or low-income. The second account would fund job training programs covered under the Workforce Investment Act. Revenue for the trust fund would come from taxing Wall Street. (Exhibit 3)

Mr. Carpenter commented that some issues that could come from this legislation are taxing, lack of minimum wage jobs, and lack of job creation in the private sector.

Ms. Fendt was concerned about the 12 month minimum duration of jobs created from this legislation, but was supportive of its potential to improve communities, create entry level jobs, and assist the low-income.

Mr. Lemon spoke that lack of opportunity is a reason for unemployment of many individuals, even those that are trained and on waiting lists.

Ald. Hamilton suggested that the City could support and promote this legislation through the Judiciary and Legislative Committee. He also said another way for promotion could be through communication with other cities and national organizations, such as the National League of Cities.

Mr. Harris commented that through traditional government practices and lack of direct language specifying a target, this type of legislation does not necessarily reach African American males or other groups of people. He said that specification of a target group could be effective, but would be problematic and considered discriminatory.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant**