

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (C.R.A.B.) MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022, VIA ZOOM

The meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

Members participating: Dan Hanlin, Raymond Raysor, Sudhanshu Sinha, Kevin Hammett and Jamie Krauk. (Ric Ransom, Ric Gordon, Tim George, and Dea Zugby were absent)

Also participating: Judy Navarro Kirlin and Bill Orleans

Jamie welcomed everyone. Next, she went on to explain the duties of C.R.A.B. Then, Dan read the Community Pledge.

### **Opening Comments**

Subsequently, Jamie opened up the meeting, thereby acknowledging the visitors. In so doing, Judy\* introduced herself, indicating she works for Homeland Security, U.S.C.I.S. Next, Bill\* let it be known that New York City and local municipalities had enacted a policy allowing non-citizens the right to vote in the local elections in America. He wanted to hear how Judy could contribute to this conversation. He also wanted to know if C.R.A.B. had yet weighed in on it. Judy replied that she would love to talk about it offline, but she did not want to hijack the meeting. Thus, for future reference, she will also place her contact information in the chat-box.

Thereafter, Jamie reviewed the agenda for today's meeting and commented that they had spent a lot of time looking at the Fair and Just Policing Act and noted that they have finalized their letter, which they will pass on to Council.

The other topics, she said, such as non-citizen voting, came out of the meeting on March 9, 2021 to provide input to the Board of Elections and C.R.A.B. --- in the city elections.

Next, Ray said he favors non-citizens having the right to vote in Greenbelt with stipulations. His criteria are as follows:

- Must be on a lease in Greenbelt
- Must be employed
- Must possess a driver's license

Then, Dan said his wife and stepdaughter have recently gone through the naturalization process in Baltimore, so he is familiar with the process. Bill also gave a nod to Bill for chatting with his wife at the last City campaign about non-citizens being allowed to vote, while the other candidates walked away when she told them she was a Canadian citizen. He went on to say he does not think Citizenship is critical to voting. However, he does believe that the persons should be living in Greenbelt. If they are paying taxes, then they should be allowed to vote. In summary, he favors non-citizens having the right to vote.

Sudhanshu asked how far are we going to go? We need to place limits on who, as a non-citizen, is allowed to vote. He is not in favor of students here on student visas being allowed to vote. He

believes their allegiance is not U.S.A. but to their parents' country. Therefore, they should not be allowed to vote in our country.

Kevin proposed they get a list of categories in the area of non-citizens. Then, they can talk about who is allowed to vote and who isn't here and place limitations.

Judy\* replied and recommended that C.R.A.B. investigate other models, such as Rockville, Bethesda, and others who have this process in place for permanent residents who are non-citizens. She would be willing to conduct an inquiry and research to gather information regarding the advantages and disadvantages. She echoed Sudhanshu. There are various classes of immigration status; refugees and Afghans evacuees. After one year of living in America, they can get their green card, which will roll back to when they first entered the United States. She said there is a lot to consider, and she certainly does not want to put her thumb on the scale at all regarding it. She recommends deliberate deliberation regarding the matter.

Sudhanshu pointed out to the group that there is a difference between permanent residence and non-citizenship. Therefore, he is in favor of allowing non-citizens who are permanent residents.

Bill\* stated that he thinks it will be a good experience for non-citizens to vote in the municipal elections. If they decide to return home, perhaps they will share their experience of being allowed to vote in America.

Dan shared his experience and his wife becoming a U.S.A. citizen and having to prove she was a resident of Greenbelt. He said it was a pain-staking experience for her when she tried to enroll her daughter in school. Additionally, Dan noted that Prince George's County is unfriendly towards immigrants. Sudhanshu echoed Dan because he had a similar experience.

Bill\* suggested and commented on Greenbelt possessing a Residency role.

### **Term Limits**

Hence, Ray stated that he thinks that there should be term limits. However, it should be longer than two years or have no term limits. He also suggested that the person should be able to come out and return if they want because relationships take years to build. Two years is not long enough to establish long-term relationships, especially financial relationships to the advancement of the City. Also, because the terms are short when the person leaves, the organization sometimes loses financial backing.

Then, Jamie said she thinks there is value in term limits. One can measure value in term limits, she said.

Sudhanshu voiced that he thinks there should be no term links.

Dan stated the magic ticket back in the day was being able to put re-elect. Years ago, it was a very closed group, but times have changed. It thinks it is practical and more effective to have both seasoned and new voices, officials and officers, at the discussion table and in politics. Hence, both are needful.

Kevin said he would need to be persuaded in this area. There is no such thing as a perfect democracy. He believes term limits are not democratic. It should be up to the people to vote politicians out of office.

Bill\* voiced that term limits are anti-democratic. Therefore, he is not in favor of them.

Council Referrals to C.R.A.B.-- Collective Bargaining Agreement

Provide input regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement for non-managerial employees  
Ray wants more education regarding this subject. Perhaps they can invite experts in this area to share, to be more informed.

Daniel states he does not know enough about it to voice an opinion about it.

Sudhanshu agrees with the other C.R.A.B. members.

### **Action Items**

Emily outlined the Action items as follows:

- Look up the classifications of immigrant status.
- Make sure that C.R.A.B. is codifying what document is required versus resident status.
- See what other cities are doing regarding non-citizens.
- C.R.A.B. wants to have a joint session with our board of elections.
- Emily will bring Tim George and Ric Gordan up to speed.
- Emily will ask Tim to invite certain people to the next meeting.
- Emily will send Bill Orleans the chat so he can have access to the comments.

### **Ear to The Ground (What is C.R.A.B. hearing as community members?)**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by

Mary Davisson, M.A.