

RESOLUTION NO. 8659

A resolution of the Missoula City Council to establish a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Joint City County Advisory Board

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 3 of the Montana Constitution guarantees the inalienable rights of all persons, including “the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life’s basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways” and acknowledges that “in enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities;” and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and the City of Missoula recognize our corresponding responsibilities to all persons, including those of identities and communities more adversely impacted by structural and systemic inequities; and

WHEREAS, the preamble to the City of Missoula’s Charter states in part, that we, “as stewards of our community, do hereby establish and ordain this charter to provide accessible and effective government...”, and

WHEREAS, Missoula County’s mission is to “[p]rovide quality public service to protect and enhance the well-being of the people, communities and environment of Missoula County;” and

WHEREAS, oppressive rhetoric and legislation in the state and around the country have left many community members across Missoula County and within the City of Missoula feeling more vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, these community members reflect diverse identities, including and not limited to racial and ethnic minorities, people of diverse religious and/or spiritual backgrounds, age, differently abled individuals, refugee status, LGBTQIP2SAA, non-binary, those who identify as transgender, those living in rural communities, those experiencing houselessness, and other historically marginalized groups; and

WHEREAS, Missoula City and County acknowledge that the systemic inequity these identities and communities face include barriers that may consist of a lack of access to reliable broadband internet and other technology critical to information and education, fewer opportunities to access credit loans and other mechanisms necessary to build generational wealth, and other barriers that impact the ability for these community members to achieve their best life; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 4 of the Montana Constitution acknowledges that “the dignity of the human being is inviolable;” and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and the City of Missoula continue to pursue a more inclusive vision of justice to ensure that all people, especially those of identities and communities more adversely impacted by structural and systemic inequities, can enjoy their inviolable dignity; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and the City of Missoula recognize that to deconstruct these inequities successfully, we must include the individuals and groups most impacted by them in our efforts; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and City of Missoula residents have expressed and advocated for better representation of people of identities and/or communities more adversely impacted by systemic inequities; and

WHEREAS, deconstructing structural and systemic inequities also requires our local governments to develop and implement with intention more equitable structures and systems; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2010, using its self-governing powers granted under the City's Charter, the City of Missoula adopted a law prohibiting discriminatory practices in the areas of employment, public accommodations, and housing based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, age, marital or familial status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression within City limits; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2021, Missoula County passed Resolution No. 2021-087, and on August 16, 2021, the City of Missoula passed Resolution 8533, establishing their commitment to a Just, Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive City and County; and

WHEREAS, one of the outcomes identified in Resolution No. 2021-087 and 8533 is a collaboration between the City and County supporting the creation of a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula County Commissioners adopted this resolution establishing the joint City-County JEDI Advisory Board on January 5, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners (Commissioners) and the Missoula City Council (Council) establish a Missoula City-County JEDI Advisory Board (Board) to advise the local governments on issues, policies, programs, services, and other opportunities to advance efforts regarding justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission and Council establish and appoint three members to the JEDI Advisory Board Bylaws Task Force (Task Force) tasked to do the following within twelve months of the date of this Resolution: Develop bylaws for the Board.
- Develop and assist the Commission and Council in implementing a formal recruitment and selection process for prospective Board members.

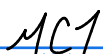
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council and the Commissioners shall provide the resources necessary including access to City and County employees to develop the bylaws and assign staff from their respective governing bodies to support the Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon appointment of the full board and thereafter, the Board will continue to be supported by City and County staff, and members will be appointed approximately equally (alternating +1 annually) by the Council and Commissioners in accordance with the adopted bylaws.

Passed and adopted this 23rd day of January, 2023


ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Claire Trimble (Jan 27, 2023 14:14 MST)

Claire Trimble
Senior Deputy City Clerk



Jordan Hess (Jan 27, 2023 13:48 MST)

Jordan Hess
Mayor

