SPECIAL WORKSHOP – NOVEMBER 28, 2016

The City Council of the City of Raleigh met in a special work session at 1:00 pm on November 28, 2016, at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center, Raleigh, North Carolina. All Council Members were present. Also present were City Manager Hall, Assistant City Managers Greene, Hayward, Adams-David, Chief of Staff Buonpane, Special Assistant to Mayor Brown, Communications Director Graham, Sustainability Manager Anderson, and Management Fellow Alexander Vazquez

City Manager Hall welcomed the group explaining this work session Advancing Racial Equity: The Role of Government was requested by the City Council. The work session was led by Julie Nelson, Senior Vice President Center for Social Inclusion Director Government Alliance on Race and Equity and Dwayne S. Marsh, Deputy Director Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

Megan Anderson, Sustainability Manager, welcomed the group providing information on the location, format, etc.
It was explained the objectives of the workshop include the following:

Gain understanding of the role of government in advancing racial equity and national best practices

Develop skills at analyzing policies and practices from a racial equity perspective and communicating about race

Strategize with others about how the can help advance racial equity.

Mr. Marsh explained the history of their company, expressed appreciation that the full council was participating stating that was unusual and allowed council members to introduce themselves.

Ms. Nelson introduced Mickie Fern explaining she had worked with him on this type issue in other areas talking about his experiences during his 50 years of public service which includes the City of Seattle and pointed out he now lives in the Raleigh area.

The group heard information of the current conditions, national best practices, participated in various activities, role playing, their concepts of current practices, each providing descriptions of their early experiences with different races in their lives, developing a shared understanding and common definitions, etc.

The group talked about communications, assessing the city organization, what can be done to put theories into action and opportunities for institutional action to advance racial equity.

City Manager Hall talked about what can be taken away from these exercise explaining he feel a lot of work and things discussed are already taking place under different labels.

Many are being addressed, studied, implemented through work on the strategic plan(support increased transit, work force training, affordable housing programs, relocations, training in police department, community conversations, police body cameras, etc.)

There was brief discussion about structure, how to proceed in existing framework, etc. No specific action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

Gail G. Smith
City Clerk