

Truth Committee Meeting Minutes 7/15/26

Purpose

Regular meeting to approve prior meeting minutes, finalize a community outreach letter to local media regarding social media moderation, and discuss committee updates, community partnerships, and upcoming initiatives.

Attendees

- Amber Green (Chair) *(in person)*
- Kenisha Le’Cole (Vice Chair) *(via Zoom)*
- Joe Venosa *(in person)*
- Kat Savoy *(via Zoom)*
- Sophia Peters *(in person)*
- Carileigh Jones *(in person)*

- Caroline O’Hare, City Liaison *(in person)*

Discussion Summary

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from:

- June 17 Regular Meeting
- July 1 Special Meeting

Members briefly revisited the July 1 discussion regarding community concerns following local media coverage of Juneteenth events and the committee’s decision to engage local media through a community outreach letter.

Community Outreach Letter

The committee continued reviewing the draft letter to local media organizations addressing social media comment moderation and responsible online engagement.

Discussion included:

- Positioning the document as a community outreach letter rather than an official City advisory.

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- Whether the letter should receive review or approval from the Mayor before distribution.
- Seeking legal review from the City Attorney prior to sending the finalized letter.
- Using community-centered recommendations rather than prescriptive rules.
- Completing final edits before the next meeting.

Members also discussed inviting additional organizations to endorse or sign onto the letter, including:

- Other City advisory committees
- NAACP
- Eastern Shore Caucus of African American Leaders

Social Media Moderation Recommendations

The committee reviewed the five recommendations included in the draft letter.

Discussion focused on:

- Encouraging local media organizations to establish and consistently enforce community standards for online comments.
- Addressing harassment, hate speech, and misinformation on social media platforms.
- Clarifying that Recommendation 5 encourages a future community conversation on ethical local journalism and responsible social media moderation rather than imposing new requirements.
- Recognizing current moderation efforts by local media outlets while encouraging continued improvement.

Committee Communications

Members discussed expanding committee outreach through regular communications with local media and the broader community.

The committee supported:

- Developing a quarterly newsletter highlighting committee activities and accomplishments.
- Meeting with other City committee chairs to strengthen communication and collaboration.
- Inviting City administration to review the finalized media letter during the August meeting.

Community Updates

Members shared updates on several community issues and upcoming opportunities, including:

- National Night Out activities.
- Housing concerns affecting elderly residents and potential collaboration with Shore Legal Access.

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- A possible partnership with the Chipman Center museum project for future programming.
- The status of Kelly's committee application, which has been approved and is awaiting Council consideration.

Decisions Made

- Approved the June 17 and July 1 meeting minutes.
- Continue framing the media communication as a community outreach letter rather than an official City advisory.
- Seek legal review from the City Attorney before distributing the finalized letter.
- Invite the Mayor's Office and City administration to review the final draft at the August 19 meeting.
- Continue pursuing collaboration with other City committees and community organizations as potential signatories.
- Complete final edits to the letter by August 12.

Action Items

Action	Owner
Determine when Kelly's application will be presented to the City Council	Caroline
Create a calendar invitation for the August 19 meeting and invite the Mayor's Office (Nick or Allen) and City Attorney (Ashley)	Amber
Schedule a meeting with all City committee chairs to discuss administrative topics and committee updates	Amber
Explore a community outreach event with Shore Legal Access regarding elder housing concerns	Amber
Return the Chipman Center collaboration opportunity to the September meeting agenda	Amber
Change "press release" to "newsletter" in the meeting minutes	Kat
Review the draft letter and submit suggestion edits in the shared Google Doc by August 12	All Committee Members
