

**THE CITY OF**  
**COLUMBUS**  
 CITY COUNCIL

**Date: July 19, 2018**  
**Time: 4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.**

**Location:**  
**90 W. Broad Street**

**Commission on Black Girls**  
**MINUTES**

Meeting Purpose	A convening of key stakeholders to collectively study factors that impact the quality of life (QOL) for Black girls in Columbus, Ohio
Columbus City Council Visionary	Councilmember Priscilla Tyson
Co-Chairs	Fran Frazier, Rise Sister Rise Dr. Frederic Bertley, Center of Science and Industry (COSI)
Project Manager	Patricia Lyons Ph.D., LISW-S

**Attendees: Key: P=Present, A=Absent, C= Conflict, \*Appointment on 7/23**

<b>Rev. Timothy Ahrens</b> First Congregational Church	A	<b>Mary Cusick</b> President & CEO, Women's Fund of Central Ohio	P	<b>DeShauna Lee JD</b> Nationwide Children's Hospital	P
<b>*Sgt Lindsey Alli</b> Columbus Division of Police	N/A	<b>Dr. Kevin Dixon</b> (Nettie Ferguson) Franklin Co. ADAMH Board	P	<b>Dr. Mysheika Roberts</b> City of Columbus	P
<b>Linda Brown</b> The Links Inc. Columbus Chapter	P	<b>Hon. Elizabeth Gill</b> Juvenile and Domestic Relations Division, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas	P	<b>Toshia Safford</b> Center for Healthy Families	P
<b>Crystal Causey</b> Coalition of 100 Black Women	P	<b>Alesia Gillison</b> Columbus City Schools	P	<b>*Dr. Wendy Smooth</b> The Ohio State University	N/A
<b>Clytemnestra L. Clarke</b> First Church of God	P	<b>Tom Grote</b> , Grote & Turner	P	<b>Chip Spinning</b> (Deborrha Armstrong) Franklin County Children's Services	P
<b>LaShanda Coleman</b> National Pan-Hellenic Council of Col.	P	<b>Mia Hairston</b> Nationwide	P	<b>Ben Tyson</b> Easton Town Center	C
<b>*Michael Corey</b> Human Services Chamber of Franklin County	(P) N/A	<b>Kim Hooper</b> Walmart	P	<b>Paiden Williams</b> Rise Sister Rise Black Girls Think Tank	P
<b>Dr. Lisa Courtice</b> United Way of Central Ohio	A	<b>LC Johnson</b> YWCA	P		

Agenda	Details
Welcome (15)	<p>Why we need to know about the Quality of Life (QOL) of Black girls in Columbus            Making the Case: Video on Black Women and the QOL            Commission Tyson officially opened the meeting 4:20 p.m. CM Tyson gave an overview of the activities that will take place, about the disparities in regard to women of color; what can we do to change that; there are alarming statistics for black women, gave historical perspective of Black women statistics with eviction courts, shelter living, infant mortality, obesity and other aspects of health. <b>This commission will focus on the quality of life, we want to hear from the girls and understand that all girls matter; by focusing on Black girls, we will do well with all girls.</b> We will be looking at quality of life and recommendation and subject matter experts to enhance the quality of life; asking each of you to reach out and to tell the story of Black girls. The remaining members will join after the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July; introduction of Co-Chairs Fran Frazier and Frederic Bertley; introduced Council staff Jo Ellen Cline and Nicole N. Harper...recognized Nancy Sully representing City Council. This project will be based on data and numbers matter, introduced Thoughtwell team, Dr. Butler and Dr. Johanson; Consultants, Jill Frost who will be responsible for finding the diverse group of Black girls for the survey, listening sessions and focus groups...Pat Lyons responsible for managing the project and will keeping every one on track.</p>
Introduction of the Commission on Black Girls (20)	<p>Co-Chairs led opening discussion on the video about black women and wealth            Co-Chair Frazier gave an overview of the work that she has done and what will happen with the information and the representation of why and who we are; discuss removing the mystery of location and economics            Co-Chair Bertley gave an overview of his choice to relocate to Columbus, Ohio, explained why the Commission matters, committed to Co-Chair role and leverage non-monetary support from COSI. Informed the current Efforts will extend beyond the outcome of this Commission...Co-Chair Frazier requested all Commission Members introduce self by addressing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As you were a girl growing up what is one thing you learned that you still hold on to today? As a boy growing up what is one thing you learned about girls that you still hold on to?</li> </ul>
The Importance of Telling the story of Black girls (20)	<p>Significance of Black vs. African American...Co-Chair Frazier gave an overview of the things that are apparent with the Commission's name; discussed historical perspective of the experience of Black people that were brought to American during the slave trade and the unique experience living in America, we tend to be called by our (a) color, many reasons why we have never been called by one name, we want to enhance the quality of life for Black girls who's history is of chattel slavery...</p> <p>Co-Chair Bertley introduction of panel of girls who will present to the Commission. Present were B.M., 14, attend Chrystal Rey L.F., 17, is charter member with RSR in 12<sup>th</sup> grade; J.B., 16, is member of second cohort in RSR,</p>

	<p>attends Fort Hayes.</p> <p>The girls responded to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "What is life like for Black Girls in Columbus? What is your life like?"</li> <li>2. "What are the most important issues facing Black girls today?"</li> <li>3. "What can the Community do to make lives of Black girls better?"</li> </ol>
Review of Materials (10)	<p>Pat gave overview of research material contained in the Commissioner's notebooks, drawing special attention to the sealed certificate provided by CM Tyson and Columbus City Council recognizing the volunteer efforts put forth by the agreement to serve on the Commission, and to understand that the selection of their person, not just the organization--was intentional, there is work to be done in the Commission, there are expectations of addressing the group opening, maintaining confidentiality at all times whether in or out of meeting as it relates to the work of the Commission and any of its related entities. Members, speaker, and guest asked to bring center themselves and some of the exercises that the Commission will partake during the meetings are intended to set the tone for the environment and to leverage our collective energy by assuming innocence and leaning into discomfort...understanding all voices are important and will be heard. Informed group that information or reference material pertinent to Black girls is always welcomed, feel free to send or share with Pat. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Jo Ellen Cline, <a href="mailto:JOCline@columbus.gov">JOCline@columbus.gov</a>. Co-Chair Bertley provided additional summation of the groups intent and expectations of participation while encouraging feedback throughout the duration of the Commissions' work.</p>
The Work of the Commission on Black Girls (25)	<p>Pat conveyed meeting schedule and gave overview of how Thoughtwell (the Research organization) will lead the data collection and analysis for the Listen, Survey and Focus groups. Jill Frost was introduced as the subject matter expert (SME) for recruiting Black girls, parents, caregivers and providers to participate in all phases of the work.</p> <p>Dr. Butler, lead researcher from Thoughtwell, gave brief overview of the research and data collection process; discussed the survey development and the importance of feedback from the Commission. Informed other evidence-based tools such as the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) assessment will be utilized in framing the survey questions. Dr. Butler informed group about benefits of an ACE score, how it helps researchers understand what variables influence, have an affect on life and contribute to quality of life (QOL) for youth...the <b>surveys</b> will contain questions designed to break down what is QOL-- toxic stress, academic achievement, school attendance and permanence, family and community support. There will be strategically implemented <b>focus groups</b>, where the stories behind the numbers are important to hear; finally there are <b>listening sessions</b> where individuals in the community who work with Black girls, whether parents, caregivers or providers will speak on the care or work they have been involved in pertaining to Black girls. This information will be integrated and the report generated will be useful to inform the Commission on process best approaches to respond to question of ... what can we do, and how we are doing with supporting the QOL for Black girls. Dr. Butler responded to questions from Commission members. Q: <i>How are you going to do the sampling</i> R: <i>we have not decided on the strategy, for a convenience sample of girls we may contact girls we may already know...how we can get a girl that have not had contact with;</i> Q: <i>Why 100 versus 200 girls,</i> R: <i>we are hoping to get a larger sample that's more reflective of the population.</i> Q: <i>How many questions that are on the survey,</i> R: <i>40, may be more than that...we have to be cognizant of age and reading level</i> Q: <i>What is the age;</i> R: <i>girls are defined as 11-22 years of age;</i> the focus groups will have some attrition, there will not be an 11 year old girl in same room with 22 year old girls; Q: <i>Is there a way for girls to respond provide verbal responses to the survey,</i> R: <i>the responses are all written responses;</i> we acknowledge concerns about oral presentation... the survey at this time cannot accommodate verbal responses...</p> <p>Co-Chair Bertley provided information on existing database for consideration in cultivating the survey questions: ROX and Girl Scouts of America and suggested reviewing secondary data sources such as Youth Self Report Questionnaire (YSR).</p>
Preparation for Next Meeting (10)	<p>Pat reviewed the meeting schedule, timeframe, reading materials, and activities with Commission; including the take home assignments to be reviewed by Co-Chair Frazier. Informed next meeting location will be sent in the minutes. CM Tyson reminded group of attendance, designated delegates are permissible, has to be same person for ensuring transference of information.</p>
Assignment (10)	<p>Interview of a girl for the "What Does She Think"? Activity... Co-Chair Frazier gave an overview of assignment to interview a girl who reside in the city (if possible, members encouraged to ask a friend if they do not know of a girl residing in city of Columbus between 11-22 yoa) Commission members can write the girls responses to the questions on the diagram directly on this page, be prepared to give an overview at next meeting.</p>
Closing Comments (10)	<p>CM Tyson acknowledged a request for speaker, Founder &amp; Executive Director of Project USA shared perspective of working with girls in the community, recognized work is directed to broader culture/ethnicity of all girls of color, wanted to draw attention to focus on getting jobs; shared some of the issues girls are facing in the Wedgewood area; Project USA's work has touched roughly 500-600 girls; reports concerns for victims of human trafficking, some reporting their younger sisters' sexual victimization...includes girls from Nigeria, and other African countries; there are younger girls who are in Islamic marriages, reports multiple marriages for reasons such as the exchange of money, sex trafficking and drug dealing. Some girls are married at 15...there is secondary victimization from exposure of domestic violence, drugs, and gang violence...speaker talks about being harassed and said to have made up cases; request CM look into injustices. Recommendations for Commission...provide education for parents, surveys, legislation and the citizenship and how that is managed, increase social and recreational programs. CM thanked speaker, providing closing remarks; all questions regarding information shared from the readings/notebook and how meetings will be structured... send to Pat Lyons (614) 546-7815 or <a href="mailto:patricia.lyons87@gmail.com">patricia.lyons87@gmail.com</a> all other questions should be directed to the Co-Chairs Fran Frazier and Frederic Bertley or CM Tyson's office. Meeting adjourned 5:42PM</p>

**Follow Up Items for Next Meeting:**

Owner	Issue/Description
Commission Members	Completion of Interview a Black girl, complete the "what does she think " activity sheet

All meetings will be held at 4:00p.m. on the third Thursday of every month, with the exception of December 13<sup>th</sup>;

August 7, 2018 August 15, 2018 <b>August 16, 2018</b> August 22, 2018 August 29, 2018	Listening Session Protocol submitted to Commission Listening Session Protocol feedback returned to Thoughtwell <b>Subject Matter Expert(s) will present on Physical Health and Spirituality</b> Survey Protocol submitted to Commission Survey Protocol feedback returned to Thoughtwell
September, 2018 September 5, 2018 September 12, 2018 <b>September 20, 2018</b>	Listening sessions conducted by Thoughtwell (dates to be determined) Focus Group Protocol submitted to Commission Focus Group Protocol feedback to Thoughtwell <b>Subject Matter Expert(s) to present on Behavioral Health</b>
October 2018 October, 2018 <b>October 18, 2018</b>	Surveys implemented (date to be determined in Early October) Focus Groups Conducted (date to be determined in Late October) <b>Subject Matter Expert(s) presentation on Education</b>
<b>November 15, 2018</b>	<b>Subject Matter Expert(s) to present on Justice, Child Welfare, Safety</b>
<b>December 13, 2018</b>	<b>Subject Matter Expert(s) to present on Workforce Preparedness</b>
January 9, 2019 January 21, 2019 January 30, 2019	Draft report submitted to Commission Feedback on Draft report submitted to Thoughtwell *Final Draft Report submitted to Commission*
February 4, 2019 *Rain check date*	Final Draft Report submitted to Commission

Meeting locations may be held at various locations within the city; the specific details and directions will be included in your email along with the accompanying agenda. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (614) 546-7815 or [patricia.lyons87@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.lyons87@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,



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