

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TASK FORCE
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021
6:00 – 8:00 PM

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM; A VIDEO OF THE MEETING
IS AVAILABLE HERE: [HTTPS://CMAC.TV/SHOW/ANTI-
DISPLACEMENT-TASK-FORCE-MEETING/](https://cmac.tv/show/anti-displacement-task-force-meeting/)

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Amber Crowell
Ana Lilia DeAlba
Debbie Darden
Morgan Doizaki

Grecia Elenes
Robert Fuentes
Kathryn Forbes*
*Alternate: Artie Padilla

Sal Gonzales
Hilda Lopez
Eric Payne*, Acting Chair
*Alternate: Cherella Nicholson
Preston Prince

1. Welcome Eric Payne, Chair, opened the meeting, provided the welcome and logistics for translation.

2. Roll Call: Members present: Morgan Doizaki, Grecia Elenes, Kathryn Forbes, Eric Payne, Debbie Darden, Robert Fuentes, Amber Crowell (late), Artie Padilla (late)

Members absent: Ana Lilia DeAlba, Hilda Lopez, Sal Gonzales, Preston Prince, Cherella Nicholson (alt)

Staff Present: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning & Development Department; Courtney Espinoza, Office of the Mayor and City Manager; Gavin Haubelt, Information Services Department

Guest: Dr. Thomas, Thrivance Group

Public Present: Approximately 50 members present; see attached attendee report.

3. Overview of Agenda E. Payne provided an overview of the agenda

4. Approve Meeting Summary from 9.21.20 – D. Darden moved and R. Fuentes seconded approval of the meeting summary from 9.21.20. The summary was approved unanimously.

5. Task Force Business – there was no task force business to report.

6. Thrivance Group Anti-Displacement Update – Dr. Destiny Thomas provided a slide presentation about the Here to Stay document, its various components, and suggestions for prioritization of the policies and advocacy around the document.

7. Q & A Chair Payne opened the floor to questions from the public and Task Force members. Chair Payne asked for confirmation from the task force to hear public comment first, and task force comments second. Task Force members confirmed.

Questions from the public:

Lisa Flores: Thanked TF for opportunity to comment and for the presentation. What is the possibility of having rent stabilization and rent control within the City of Fresno and within SW Fresno to stabilize not only rent but cultural groups as well.

Dr. Thomas: Rent stabilization is included in the recommendations; she can't speak to political will to adopt.

Leroy Candler: What are the plans for people getting out of jail soon and young people in SW Fresno who are not getting trained; how can they get job training? He understands 800,000 people nationwide will be getting out of jail soon.

Dr. Thomas: report includes recommendations for jobs and housing being more equitable and inclusive for people with criminal records; fair chance housing program.

Yonas Paulos stated that he is thankful for this process and stated that he works with veterans and is committed to the process.

Olga Moya: What is the plan for helping the homeless people?

Dr. Thomas: Direct service delivery is not part of our scope.

S. Pagoulatos: We can connect you with the City's homeless project manager H. Spees.

Kiel Lopez-Schmidt: What is the scope of the report? Citywide or TCC Project area?

Dr. Thomas: Expanded to citywide due to the nature of displacement; if focused only on SW Fresno, wouldn't be able to focus on people who have been displaced outside of SW Fresno. Recommending that recommendations are proposed to be citywide.

Kiel Lopez-Schmidt: How would this report apply to neighborhoods of opportunity where there isn't much diversity?

Dr. Thomas: some of the affordability recommendations and tenant protections might point to this, but goal of report is to help residents stay where they live now. Focus was Here to Stay.

Kimberly McCoy: Thanked Dr. Thomas for her beautiful presentation. How much funding is allowed for the City to take these recommendations and start implementing them?

Dr. Thomas stated that fiscal commitment hasn't been communicated to her, but she is aware of questions related to COVID funds. She is trying to make the economic business case for implementation of the recommendations.

Chair Payne asked Courtney to respond.

C. Espinoza stated that staff hasn't seen the report so we can't comment. TCC has funded Thrivance's work to date, and city staff will evaluate when we see the report.

S. Pagoulatos affirmed Courtney's response and said the City Council will ultimately decided on resources.

Kimberly McCoy: She was aware that Thrivance's contract was expanded to address displacement citywide, so there must be resources. She wants to know which policies will be prioritized so that she knows where to focus her advocacy.

Michaelynn Lewis: Thanked Dr. Thomas for her presentation; regarding housing, she stated that low income housing is always called for in SW Fresno. She would prefer that single family ownership housing is also needed in SW Fresno. Could that be prioritized?

Dr. Thomas said that the report did not take a position on type of housing needed; that is left up to individuals to express their preference. The Thrivance analysis is historical; and while the report does not call for a certain housing type, it does call for improved design and quality.

Michaelynn Lewis: Can we add this to something in planning? Every day I pass by a couple of huge complexes that are very cookie cutter. This adds another label, and in ten years, they will need to be demolished. Would like to see that kind of design go away and to see more innovation.

Seeing no further questions from the public, Chair Payne opened the floor to questions from the task for members:

Kathryn Forbes: Asked Dr. Thomas to describe how public comments will be incorporated into the process?

Dr. Thomas said that there will be a 30-45 day public comment period. Although our contract ends at the end of March, we are making haste to release the document on the 1st to allow time for public comment. We will not do public engagement on the ground, but will make recommendations to the City on what they can do. We intend to consider and document all public comments, and incorporate where appropriate. The public will receive a memo from us about the comments received.

Grecia Elenes: Expressed appreciation for presentation and work; thanked public for comments. Wants to echo Ms. McCoy on implementation phase. Wants to ensure that we are adhering to TCC guidelines and minimum of three policies. This is a requirement from SGC.

Chair Payne asked staff where the money resides. C. Espinoza said staff needs to analyze the report before committing funds. S. Pagoulatos stated that she doesn't have anything to add, but she has a slide of next steps.

Chair Payne emphasized that there is deep concern about funds for implementation.

8. Action Items, Next Steps and Task Force Meeting Schedule

S. Pagoulatos proposed the following draft schedule:

- **March 1 – 31:** Here to Stay Anti-Displacement Report released for 30/45-day public comment period
- **March 4:** City Council consideration of Here to Stay Anti-Displacement report
- **March 23:** Anti-Displacement Task Force meeting to prioritize policies in Here to Stay report
- **April/May:** Anti-Displacement Task Force meeting to review public comments & continue policy prioritization
- **May/June:** Anti-Displacement Task Force makes recommendations to City Council on anti-displacement policies

9. Unscheduled Oral Communications

- 10. Adjournment – 8:15 pm** – Chair Payne provided some closing comments, thanking the Task Force members, Thrivance Group, staff and the public, and the meeting adjourned around 8:15 p.m.