

**City Council Special Meeting Minutes
Community Town Hall
June 23, 2020**

The Snohomish City Council held a Community Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. on June 23, 2020. The topic was *Understanding the Events in Snohomish of May 30 through June 5*.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Larry Countryman
Steve Dana
Judith Kuleta
Tom Merrill
Donna Ray
Linda Redmon
Jason Sanders

STAFF PRESENT

Pat Adams, City Clerk and HR Manager
Emily Guildner, City Attorney's Office
Wendy Poischbeg, Economic Development and
Communications Manager
Steve Schuller, City Administrator and Utility General
Manager
Grant Weed, City Attorney

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 declared federal, state and local emergency, and pursuant to Governor Inslee's Proclamations 20-05 and 20-28, the Snohomish City Council held its meeting via remote participation.

Over 100 attendees were present during the webinar.

Councilmember Linda Redmon opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She briefly explained the format of the Town Hall: City staff and community leaders would provide statements and presentations, followed by common community questions, and citizens would be encouraged to ask questions prior to the meeting's conclusion. The meeting was moderated by Terry Hollimon, host of The Barbershop Show.

1. *Understanding the Laws Related to First and Second Amendment Rights, Open Carry of Firearms and Displays of Symbols of Hate/Racism*
Grant Weed and Emily Guildner, City Attorney's Office

Ms. Guildner explained the First Amendment and how the courts tend to interpret related cases. Mr. Weed provided basic information related to the Second Amendment. He explained the State of Washington is an open-carry state, and cities and counties cannot pass legislation regulating guns; changes to the gun laws have to be made at the federal or state level.

Mr. Hollimon read the questions frequently asked by citizens and received prior to the meeting, which Ms. Guildner and Mr. Weed answered.

2. *The Who, Why, and What of the Law Enforcement Response*
Captain Robert Palmer, Interim Chief of Snohomish Police Department

Captain Palmer provided a report of the events May 31 through June 5, as well as his own experiences of these events.

Mr. Hollimon again read questions that were common amongst the citizens, to which Captain Palmer responded.

3. *Snohomish School District and Snohomish Education Association Actions on Racial Equity*
Kent Kultgen, Superintendent, Snohomish School District

Miriam Miralles Mickelson, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning Services,
Snohomish School District
Justin Fox-Bailey, Snohomish Education Association

Dr. Kultgen, Dr. Mickelson and Mr. Fox-Bailey all provided statements on the current practices of the Snohomish School District, indicating steps were initiated even prior to the week's events to train teachers and staff in bias awareness training, discrimination, and inclusion, as well as providing services for students and their families. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed further meetings and trainings, but they are continuing to move forward.

4. *Snohomish Faith-Based Communities Actions on Racial Equity*
Charles Lewis, First Presbyterian Church
Eliacín Rosario-Cruz, St. John's Episcopal Church

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Rosario-Cruz both spoke to what they are doing to help their congregations through these events, and related the personal journeys citizens are embarking upon.

5. *Snohomish For Equity Actions on Racial Equity*
Kathy Purviance-Snow, Snohomish For Equity
Lisa Odom, Snohomish For Equity

Ms. Purviance-Snow and Ms. Odom provided an introduction and background to Snohomish For Equity, and outlined events and trainings they have initiated. They encouraged citizens to visit their website for suggestions on helping individuals wishing to learn and do more, or to contact them directly if they would like to get involved and assist in these efforts.

6. *Moderated Community Conversation: Addressing Questions and Gathering Ideas from the Community.*

Mr. Hollimon encouraged citizens to ask questions not yet specifically answered. Citizens asked questions and various panel members answered.

7. *Wrap Up – What's Next and How Do We Maintain Momentum*

Mr. Hollimon invited each group to provide a brief recap of what they have planned for the future. Mr. Weed took a moment to read a letter from the State Supreme Court, supported by the full County Supreme Court, which noted judicial responsibilities toward race, going forward.

Councilmember Redmon thanked Mr. Hollimon for his assistance, and thanked the citizens for attending and participating.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

APPROVED this 7th day of July, 2020.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

ATTEST:

John T. Kartak, Mayor

Pat Adams, City Clerk