

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 June 3rd, 2020

A present majority of current non-ex-officio members shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio Mem.				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton		x	
Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)	Lilian Jimenez (rep. Grace Hou)			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)	Selma D'Souza (rep. Paula Basta)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)	Donna Hardy (rep. James Bennett)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)	Gaylon Alcaraz (rep. Marc Smith)			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)	Director Theresa Eagleson			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Pub. Health)	Director Ngozi Ezike			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)	Marina Faz-Huppert (rep. Michael Kleinik)		x	
Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)	Jaclyn Matthews (Rep. Carmen Ayala)		x	
Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)	Director Ginger Ostro			x
Ex-Officio (Community College Board)	Natasha Allan (rep. Brian Durham)			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)				
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Candace Coleman			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Jennifer Lee			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Nikita Richards		x	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Veronica Espina		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Ines Kutlesa		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Rhonda Thomas			x
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Theresa Forthofer		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Amanda Basso			x
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)				
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Aileen Kim		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Kaethe Morris Hoffer		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Maaria Mozaffar		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Wendy Pollack		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Brandy Donaldson		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vidhya Prakash		x	

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 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 June 3rd, 2020

Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Monique Garcia		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Pamela Althoff			x
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Amina Jaffer		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Drella Savage			x
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Rochelle Crump			x
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Sylvia Matos-Collins		x	
Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Dep. Governor Sol Flores			x
Guest (non-member)				
Guest, Representative	Representative Anna Moeller			x
Guest, Senator	Senator Jackie Collins			x
Guest, DCEO	Ibie Hart		x	
Guest	Kelly Fair		x	
Lt. Governor's Staff (non-member)				
N/A	Teresa Reyes		x	
N/A	Robert Mannis		x	
N/A	Levi Bain		x	
N/A	Valarie Rand		x	
N/A	Kirsten Davis-Franklin		x	

I. Call to Order

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the quarterly meeting to order at 5:35PM

II. Roll Call, Approval of Agenda for 06.03.20, and Approval of Minutes from 03.04.20

- a. Roll taken and quorum established
- b. Approval of Agenda for 06.03.20
 - i. Moved by Vidhya Prakash
 - ii. Seconded by Brandy Donaldson
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions
- c. Approval of Minutes from 03.04.20
 - i. Moved by Nikita Richards
 - ii. Seconded by Sylvia Matos-Collins
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions

III. Chairperson's Remarks

- a. Briefly discussed current events in Illinois and around the world
- b. Acknowledged that state leadership is listening to community voices and working to ensure issues leading up to and ensuing from current events are addressed

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
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June 3rd, 2020

IV. Round Robin

- a. Council members share their thoughts, if so desired, on current events in the U.S. and in Illinois more particularly
 - i. Nikita Richards
 1. Feeling perplexed, but focused on getting the good work done
 - ii. Veronica Espina
 1. Feeling devastated but hopeful
 2. “I live in a community where there is anti-black, anti-immigrant, and anti-protest sentiments. Right now, I feel devastated, but hopeful we can create a critical mass to make changes.”
 - iii. Ines Kutlesa
 1. “We fight for equality in all of life’s domains and to see this disregard for George Floyd’s life is the height of systemic racism. The focus of this Council is to reduce violence, discrimination, and disenfranchisement. Perhaps we can talk about forming a task force so that the Council can be a part of the conversation around Illinois on these issues.”
 - iv. Theresa Forthofer
 1. “One of my early frustrations was around the grouping of people looting, people protesting, and people being violent all into one group.”
 2. “I sent out a message to my staff the other day and I received a lot of support.”
 - v. Aileen Kim
 1. “Everything has me questioning what’s next and what we can do differently. It’s all too frequently in the news that we hear about violence against Black bodies, so I’ve been thinking about what we can do differently. We need to operate using a racial, social, and economic justice lens in our work to capture all the issues that people in our state are facing.”
 - vi. Kaethe Morris Hoffer
 1. “What we need is to lean into the people who have expertise in dealing with white supremacy. The rage of people who live under the boot of white supremacy needs to be uplifted. The work this Council can play in this is similar to the work that our Gender-Based Violence Committee has done — we can amplify, promote, and support the leadership and wisdom of folks that have so much wisdom in guiding us to ending white supremacy.”
 - vii. Maaria Mozaffar
 1. “We cannot waste time. White supremacy has entered all spaces of our policies and it behooves us to understand that nexus. I look forward to being clear in the work of the Council that there is no place for white supremacy.”
 - viii. Wendy Pollack
 1. “I am distressed and it shows how much I have to do individually as a white person, as do all white people. There is a lot of work to be done.”
 - ix. Brandy Donaldson
 1. “Two young, Black people have been murdered during demonstrations in the Quad Cities area, and we’re dealing with that. No one is being held responsible for these deaths. We had peaceful protests on Saturday during

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Illinois Council on Women and Girls
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
June 3rd, 2020

the day and at night it turned terrible. There's now a curfew on both sides of the river in the Quad Cities area. "

2. "Two minutes before this meeting, I and others in the Quad Cities area had a meeting with elected officials and others. I'm a Black, gay woman — I personally understand that communities have been fighting for justice and equity for the longest. I'm now looking to my elected for change. I've been to a ton of protests and demonstrations, so I am focusing more of energy of holding my elected officials' hands to the fire — whenever my elected officials see me, I am going to ask about racial justice."
- x. Vidhya Prakash
1. "My feelings ranged from rage to disgust to despair, but I'm an optimist, and our state leadership has given me hope. A protest I recently attended also gave me hope."
 2. "Obama emphasized that in terms of solutions it begins with modeling, being specific, and relying on our local and state governments. I think this Council ought to keep this in mind as we move forward with solutions."
- xi. Monique Garcia
1. "I am in awe of the amazing and powerful insight that everyone has offered so far. I am sad, angry, and tired. This is not the first time that the unjust treatment of Black bodies has occurred — or the second time. This is rooted in the founding of our country and it is way past time for us to move on. There needs to be more than statements, tweets, and black boxes, so I am looking for incremental changes and holding people accountable."
- xii. Amina Jaffer
1. "I am very grateful for the leadership at the state level. A week ago, a lot of people didn't realize that racism was a part of our communities. It is unbelievable that people are so blatantly racist and that they get away with it. The dust must come out from the rug, so I am happy about the protests that occurred."
 2. "If we get past the scary tensions of the moment, I think we have another wave of elected officials coming — just as took place with the recent historical election of women elected officials."
- xiii. Sylvia Perez Collins
1. "I echo what has been said about feeling proud of the protests — across the world. I marvel that there are people from other countries that realize our country can be better than she is."
- xiv. Ibie Hart
1. "I took today off because as someone who does a lot of anti-racist work and works for minority businesses in DCEO, it's been difficult. But, I think we can get to the root and push for things we couldn't before."
- xv. Selma D'Souza
1. "I appreciate everyone's comments and the Lt. Governor giving us the opportunity to speak. I came to this country as a child when I was 7 years old. This country and state have made a progress since then, but it feels like we're taking steps back sometimes."
- xvi. Donna Hardy
1. "Today my agency has been thinking about how to give staff a voice. We've set up 12 sessions with 10-15 people each and allowing them to talk about what's going on. A lot of people are hurting and feeling

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Quarterly Meeting Minutes
June 3rd, 2020

frustrated. Creating that safe space in your workspace is crucial. You spend a lot of time with you coworkers in the office and one of the ways to build bridges is to spend time with people away from work.”

2. “I have a son who’s 23 years old. I recently asked him what’s the end goal, and he said ‘at the end of the day, we’re in the midst of a pandemic and youth unemployment is the highest it’s been and we’re mad. Think about the crushing debt we’re under and think about all the minorities who’ve been hurt by COVID-19 who are the essential workers because these are the people they tell to go to work to ensure the system runs and they won’t even give them benefits.’ It made me realize that bringing in young people like this is important to the work we’re doing.”

xvii. Marina Faz-Huppert

1. “I’ve been inspired by what everyone’s saying. Thank you for allowing us to utilize this platform to raise voices and move us forward.”

xviii. Jaclyn Matthews

1. “It’s been amazing and incredible to hear what folks are saying today. I was texting with my mom and she was telling me about some of her own experiences. She was talking about how my grandad could not get a business loan, as a Mexican man, until someone pointed him in the direction of a loan officer that could help and how that changed the direction of the next couple of generations. As I think about that and my work at the Illinois State Board of Education, I think about how more than half of our students in Illinois are BIPOC and 80% of our teachers are white. I’m excited about the role of this Council in think through some of these systemic challenges and empowering the voices of girls in these conversations.”

xix. Kelly Fair

1. “I sometimes feel that in the space of public service people ask ‘what is the next move,’ and my next move is to breathe because to always be moving can be dangerous. I also need to breath for my team because they are dealing with kids who are struggling with not only COVID-19, but now also looting and other community destruction. What’s exciting for me is that, while some young professionals don’t always see the need for social justice, folks in my organization that did not get it before have found that it connected this week with their work and their lives.”

V. New Business

a. Committee Updates

i. Robert Mannis

1. “Given time constraints, I ask that committee chairs provide a brief written update to me via email of where efforts are with their committee efforts.”
2. “After this meeting, I would like to put together an outline for a police brutality and systemic racism taskforce — the idea for which was raised by Ines Kutlesa to concretely try and make a difference around these issues in Illinois. I will email the Council and ask you all to reach out if you’re interested in joining.”

VI. Member Updates

a. Lt. Governor Stratton

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Quarterly Meeting Minutes
June 3rd, 2020

- i. “It would be good to pick up upon the work of the March 4th meeting in the Governor’s Mansion. It would be good to bring women in to present on the new and aggravated stressors that women and girls are dealing with at this moment — during the COVID-19 pandemic and during the mass social unrest we’re witnesses across the globe.”

VII. Public Comments

- a. No public comments

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Moved by Lt. Governor Stratton at 6:58PM
- b. Seconded by Vernoica Espina
- c. All in favor
- d. No opposition
- e. No abstentions