

Diversity Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 6:30pm

Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main Street & on Zoom

Present: Interim Chair Marcus Patton, Council Members Sandy Kamens, David Rackliffe, Carolyn Palmquist, and Danny Palmquist

Absent: Council Members Jeff Israel and Tony Lopes

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. Council Attendance

A round table roll call of the Council Members was taken. There was a quorum.

III. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes from the June 23, 2026 Meeting

The Interim Chair called for a Motion to approve the Minutes from the June 23, 2026 Meeting. Council Member Kamens made the motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carolyn Palmquist. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted into the record.

V. Current Business

a. Council Members Review Resource and Event News and Notes

Council Members provided the following updates:

Interim Chair Patton:

Attended the Hubbell School backpack event. It was a true family get-together and attendance was high. Payton's Promise made a large donation of school supplies to fill the backpacks.

The Interim Chair attended an event at Real Café when Gov. Lamont was in Bristol that day meeting with residents and business owners. The Governor responded to questions about AI and other concerns.

Council Member Rackliffe:

Attended the City Council Meeting where the Flock and Red Light/Speed Cameras were on the agenda. Current concerns such as retention capabilities of the Flock cameras were discussed, as well as cyber security controls. He made a point to clarify that current City Ordinances don't address the use of Flock cameras. The Flock cameras do help the police coordinate their efforts across district lines.

The Council Member also noted that new donations have come into the Men and Boys Club which he is associated with, and the donation from Barnes increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Council Member Carolyn Palmquist:

Reported on recent Bristol Pride events including a Dungeons & Dragons night at Faith Lutheran Church which was a free-to-attend community connections event. Dark Moon on N. Main Street contributed to the event.

The upcoming Bristol Pride Fall Fantasy Ball on October 23rd is looking for a new host location as Ventana's has closed and they were the original venue. The group is looking into having a table at the September 19th Farmers Market the day of the Diversity Council's Vote Mob for the Market, and the No Boundaries Youth Academy in New Britain held their Addams Family play.

b. Cash Mob/Vote Mob Review and Ideas

Logistics for the Vote Mob to benefit the Bristol Farmer Market with the people's choice online standing were discussed. Cross promotional branding will be used to incorporate the Diversity Council with the Farmers Market. The flyer and promoting the voting will start as soon as possible ahead of the September 19th Vote Mob Day at the market. The last day to vote is September 30th.

The voting rules emphasize one vote per email address. Voters can access the voting site through the provided QR Code or a link. As of this meeting, the Bristol Farmers Market has 138 votes. Council Member Carolyn Palmquist will create

the co-branded flyer, review it with the Farmers Market contacts and with the Interim Chair for approval, and then it will be publicized.

Discussion followed, including the best way forward to best gather nominations and votes for the next Cash Mob in support of an area business. Based on the discussion, the following Motion was made:

Motion to conduct a Vote Mob/Cash Mob for the Bristol Farmers Market at the regularly scheduled market day of Saturday, September 19, 2026, and provide a volunteer nomination sheet at the event to gather business names for the fourth quarter Cash Mob. Based on the number of nominations received on that day, the Diversity Council will decide whether to open up nominations on Bristol Talks to allow for more options, or move ahead with the voting based on the nominations already received.

The motion was made by Council Member Carolyn Palmquist and seconded by Council Member Rackliffe. There was no additional discussion or questions. All were in favor and the motion passed into the record.

c. Tee-Shirt Orders

The Diversity Council shirt orders will ideally be made and arrive for the Council to wear at the Vote Mob event on September 19th.

VI. New Business

a. Final Cash Mob '26 Options

The Interim Chair noted this item was included in the earlier discussion under **V. New Business b. Cash Mob/Vote Mob Review and Ideas.**

b. Diversity Council "Passport" Next Steps

This item will be on the September 2026 Agenda as the members continue to consider the information and discussion reviewed at an earlier meeting.

The Interim Chair noted wanting to also add the conversation about youth involvement in the Council to the September meeting. Members were asked to consider options for incorporating the area high schools and teens into the Council, and/or how the Council can best support the school's existing diversity programs and/or efforts. Discussion followed including including the need to

ensure that all three high schools were represented, as well as inviting Superintendent Iris White back for additional discussion.

c. Unity in the Community Execution

Members were also asked to consider ideas and platforms for the fourth quarter Unity in the Community event. The Bristol Public Library allows the Council to use their space free of cost, with a small fee for after event clean up if food is provided. The Council agreed they would again provide refreshments paid by their individual donations. Discussion followed regarding some possible topics and logistics. The Council's goal is to ensure they're serving the community in the best way possible in this year end gathering.

VII. Adjournment

With no further items noted, the Interim Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Rackcliffe and was seconded by Council Member Kamens. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary*