

Quick recap

The Women's Commission meeting focused on reviewing bylaws and addressing concerns about multilingual learners and undocumented students, with discussions on creating resource banks and exploring policy solutions. Updates were provided on various initiatives including upcoming events, resource connections, and the need for better communication about community support following incidents. The conversation ended with discussions on commission leadership changes, including officer elections and bylaw reviews, along with plans for future collaborations and policy reviews.

Next steps

- [Kionne to send out email to commission members requesting nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary positions for July election.](#)
- [Carolyn to send meeting minutes to Kionne and Jill.](#)
- [Kionne, Jill, and Carolyn to meet and discuss agenda-setting process going forward.](#)
- [Ana to send information about doula legislation hearing to the group for wider sharing.](#)
- [Jill to obtain and share police behavioral health response policies with the Women's Commission for review and comment.](#)
- [Jill to discuss with OECR leadership about organizing a collaborative event for all boards and commissions under OECR.](#)
- [Kionne to continue inviting city council members to future meetings with more advance notice.](#)
- [Jill to check if all city council members can be added to the commission's calendar invites.](#)
- [Kionne to review bylaws sections not covered in this meeting at the next meeting.](#)
- [All commission members to review and respond to communications within 3 business days as per bylaws.](#)

Summary

Bylaws Review and School Concerns

The meeting began with a roll call to help the AI note-taker identify speakers, though some technical difficulties with background noise and audio were experienced. Kionne explained that the focus of the meeting was to review bylaws and conduct a mid-year level set, with a decision to postpone approval of the May minutes to allow time for review. The group discussed concerns about city schools' multilingual learners, which Jill had previously raised via email, and Kionne invited input from attendees.

Supporting Multilingual and Undocumented Students

The group discussed challenges faced by multilingual learners and undocumented students in finding internships, careers, and higher education opportunities due to language barriers and legal status. Jill connected them with Mima who provided resources, and Kionne proposed connecting them with a Spanish educator at Baltimore School for the Arts for emotional support and creative expression. Ana shared information about healthcare and doula resources, and the group discussed the importance of providing information about workers' rights in the informal economy. They also considered creating a centralized resource bank and exploring policy solutions with city council members. Stephany suggested moving workshops and information sessions online and creating a welcome resource guide to help communicate available resources to vulnerable communities.

Women's Commission Membership Transition Update

Kionne discussed the current state of the Women's Commission, noting that some members have decided not to seek reappointment, resulting in two vacancies. She emphasized the need for official resignations from those who wish to leave and encouraged active engagement from those serving out their terms. Kionne also mentioned that she is conducting initial interviews for potential new members and will follow up with those who haven't submitted their reappointment applications. Additionally, she provided an update on one-on-one meetings, stating that they will be informal and focused on feedback and collaboration.

Community Support and Resource Updates

Jill provided updates on several initiatives, including the upcoming Caregiver Conference on Monday and the Special Women's Commission T-shirts. She announced the scheduling of a virtual Town Hall for the transgender community on July 7th, emphasizing the need for pre-registration and maintaining anonymity to ensure a safe space for discussion. Jill also mentioned that OECR had a table at the Upton community to offer support following a police shooting, and she clarified the process for connecting community members with resources. The group discussed the need for better communication about such events to allow all commissions to participate and support affected communities.

Community Events Resource Management

Jill discussed the process for community events, emphasizing the importance of board and commission members participating and representing the Women's Commission. She explained the use of a spreadsheet to track resources and connections, and mentioned exploring a potential integration with Charm Care for easier access to resources. Jill also highlighted the

benefits of Charm Care's human-led verification process and its user-friendly features for navigating services.

Commission Bylaws and Attendance Review

Kionne led a meeting to review the commission's bylaws and emphasize the importance of attendance, communication, and adherence to duties. She announced that she would be tracking attendance to ensure members notify the chairperson of absences and reminded the group to respond to communications within three business days. Kionne also highlighted the need for accurate meeting minutes and discussed the process for requesting and managing leave of absences, noting that members should forecast their absence duration and that new members would be appointed if a member fails to return after an approved leave.

Officer Elections Planning Discussion

The commission discussed holding elections for vice chair and secretary positions, currently scheduled for July. Kionne proposed giving members a month to consider running, with elections to be held during the July meeting. The group agreed to move forward with the election, despite uncertainty about timing due to potential resignations. Kionne noted that according to the bylaws, elections for officers not appointed by the mayor should be held yearly at either the second meeting of each term or the first meeting of each calendar year.

Commission Bylaws and Meeting Process

The meeting focused on reviewing and discussing the commission's bylaws, with Kionne emphasizing the need for regular reviews to ensure compliance and accountability. They addressed issues regarding meeting minutes, proposing a collaborative process involving AI and Carolyn to draft and review minutes within three business days. Carolyn raised concerns about not being included in agenda setting, and Kionne acknowledged this, planning a follow-up meeting with Carolyn and Jill to establish a system for agenda creation. The group also discussed an upcoming hearing on Friday regarding language in hospital policies about doulas, with Kionne requesting support in sharing information and encouraging attendance.

Police Accountability and Behavioral Health

Kionne discussed a recent police-involved shooting of a 70-year-old woman during a behavioral health crisis, which prompted her to explore potential collaborations between the Police Accountability Board and their organization. She proposed reviewing policies related to behavioral health crises and suggested organizing a panel discussion or retreat involving all boards and commissions under OCR, potentially during Civil Rights Week. Kionne also mentioned inviting the entire city council to their meetings, noting that only one council

member responded, and she plans to follow up with a 30-day preparation notice for future meetings.