

Transcript of Public Comment

For Public Comment Period (at June 1, 2020 HPCC Meeting)

Dr. Joe Blosser

[2:47 in duration]

Transcript of Call

Dr. Joe Blosser: *“My name is Dr. Joe Blosser and I live at 1301 Georgetown Court in High Point. For nearly the last decade, I have been deeply involved in community development efforts throughout the City of High Point. In all the work I do, racial equity is always on the front of my mind because of the differences and the economic opportunities, health outcomes, and political power available to people of different races in our city. Those differences are stark. The City of High Point has trailed the racial equity efforts of our neighboring cities, and it has been to the economic detriment of our entire community. We know that thriving communities embrace the diversity of the residents and these communities pursue equity strategies like those laid out in the recent diversity initiatives statement by the city.*

It’s not enough to say that we offer equal opportunity. We’ve done equal opportunity for decades, but, because taken as an aggregate, people of different races in our communities start from very different starting places. Equal opportunity is actually just a way to ensure people who identify as white are the ones most able to secure opportunities when they arise.

As a city, our economic development and our health outcomes will improve if we pursue equity strategies like investing in a chief equity officer, developing robust personnel policies that make our city more competitive, encouraging minority-owned business and insisting on real challenging racial equity training for all employees. For the last several years I have helped fund and create opportunities for residents in High Point to get racial equity training through the Racial Equity Institute and NCCJ. I think real diversity training helps everyone understand the long history of racism in our country and helps us see that we often participate in racist structures without intending to, without knowing that we’re doing it, and actually with good intentions to not be racist. But the work of anti-racism requires regular and on-going training that bit-by-bit helps us see how all of our actions and policies often perpetuate the very racism we say we want to eradicate.

It is my sincere hope that the good people on our Council will recognize that good intentions simply aren’t enough to ensure real opportunity for all people in our city. While budgets will be tight during this Global Pandemic, there has never been a more

critical time to invest in the work of racial equity because this crisis is most adversely affecting people of color in our city. The small investment on behalf of the city will have huge economic, social, and health benefits that will help us truly become the diverse and vibrant city we are meant to be.

Thank you so much.”

[transcript of voice mail received from Rev. Joe Blosser on Wednesday, May 27th @ 2:03 p.m.] [approximately 2.47 minutes in duration]