

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON**  
**DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION**  
**April 15, 2025— 6:00pm**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or**  
Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/LIVE

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Ford Burley (Secretary); Keiselim Montas (Public Representative); Bise Wood Saint Eugene (Chair); Simone Whitecloud (Public Representative Alternate acting as Public Representative); Devin Wilkie (City Council Representative); Tia Winter (Vice-Chair)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Zook (City Council Alternate)

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Shaun Mulholland

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3 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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5 The April 15, 2025 meeting of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEI) was called  
6 to order by Chair Bise Wood Saint Eugene at 6:00pm.

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8 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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10 *A MOTION by Vice Chair Tia Winter that the DEI Commission approve the minutes of the*  
11 *March 18, 2025 meeting of the DEI Commission as presented.*

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13 *Seconded by City Councilor Devin Wilkie.*

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15 *\*The Motion was passed unanimously.*

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17 **3. OLD BUSINESS**

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19 No old business was discussed.

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21 **4. NEW BUSINESS**

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23 **A. Taste and Traditions – Lebanon’s Multicultural Celebration**

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25 Celeste Pfeiffer, Outreach and Programming Librarian at Lebanon Public Libraries, attended to  
26 speak about the Taste and Traditions festival, taking place June 14, 12-3pm. They are still in the  
27 process of getting applicants for the performance portion of the festival. The idea is to showcase  
28 the diversity and the talents of the people of Lebanon, including traditional dishes, dances, crafts,  
29 music, etc. Ms. Pfeiffer was attending to see if Commission members are able to assist in any

30 way and to brainstorm ideas. Discussion centered around outreach and networking suggestions,  
31 including Talking Bridge, the Lebanon School District, HCOREI, Dartmouth College,  
32 Dartmouth Health, Good Neighbor Health Clinic, AVA, and more. The Commission will have a  
33 booth at the event, and will be partnering with it to help make it a success.

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35 **B. Housing Task Force Focus Groups**

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37 Councilor Devin Wilkie reported that Catheryn Hembree of the Planning Department has  
38 indicated that the Housing Task Force is hoping to create focus groups, in summer, possibly July,  
39 and is hoping to reach out to communities not normally represented in these discussions.

40 Secretary Richard Ford Burley suggested reaching out to Rebecca Desilets in Human Services.

41 Councilor Wilkie suggested reaching out to the BIPOC group at the Upper Valley Business  
42 Alliance, and asked if there were other groups we could suggest. Chair Bise Wood Saint Eugene  
43 asked if the Housing Task Force has any kind of documentation or leaflets that we could use to  
44 connect with groups, Councilor Wilkie will inquire.

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46 **C. Upper Valley Spanish Institute**

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48 Brandee Platt, representing UVSI, attended via telepresence. The Institute is interested in  
49 promoting the Hispanic community in the Upper Valley, would like to do cultural events, and are  
50 hoping the DEI Commission would be comfortable doing promotions with them. Among other  
51 things, the organization runs language and cultural awareness workshops, and are trying to get  
52 their bilingual advocacy program up and running. Ms. Platt indicated that she will connect with  
53 Celeste Pfeiffer regarding the Taste and Traditions festival. Commission members suggested  
54 networking and outreach opportunities, for example WISE, LISTEN, etc. Commission Member  
55 Questions asked and answered included those regarding language and cultural programs, UVSI  
56 scholarship opportunities, a potential list of cultural resources, and whether the organization has  
57 connected with Talking Bridge. Chair Saint Eugene stated that Ms. Platt has the full support of  
58 the Commission and thanked her for her presentation.

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60 **D. Finalize Citywide Equity Plan**

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62 Councilor Devin Wilkie presented on minor updates: progress is being made, and will present  
63 the outline to the Commission in May. Secretary Richard For Burley will work with Councilor  
64 Wilkie to write a preamble. City Manager Shaun Mulholland would like the Commission to get  
65 buy-in from City Council in the form of a resolution, and perhaps connect with the Lebanon  
66 School District.

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68 **E. Juneteenth Update**

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70 Vice Chair Tia Winter reported that she had met with HCOREI and the Juneteenth Steering  
71 Committee, and will be meeting with them again tomorrow at the HCOREI meeting at 7pm.  
72 With the Taste and Traditions being the Saturday before and the Hartford Juneteenth being on  
73 the following Saturday, she suggested focusing our efforts on the joint Hartford-Lebanon  
74 celebration on the Saturday rather than on having a separate event on the June 19 holiday. It was  
75 suggested that the Upper Valley Meditation group who run the reading on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July might

76 be interested in organizing an educational event on June 19<sup>th</sup>, and Vice Chair Winter agreed to  
77 reach out, with the assistance of Commission Member Simone Whitecloud.

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80 **5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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82 No public comment was offered.

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84 **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

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86 City Manager Shaun Mulholland spoke on HB 511. He has prepared a draft of changes that  
87 would need to be made to the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance in order to bring it into  
88 compliance, should the bill pass into law. The Commission will keep itself apprised of  
89 developments on the matter going forward.

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91 **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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93 Suggestions for future agenda items included Juneteenth, Citywide Equity Plan, and Taste and  
94 Traditions items on the May agenda. Other items were discussed and dismissed.

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96 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

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98 Chair Bise Wood Saint Eugene adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

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101 Respectfully submitted,

102 Richard Ford Burley, DEI Commission Secretary