



Justice and Equity Committee Update

San Juan County Charter Review Commission

April 7, 2021

Issues under consideration

	JUSTICE & EQUITY COMMITTEE - Issues under discussion	Proposer	Summary of Deliberations (as of April 5/21)
1	Creation of an independent citizen's law and justice oversight committee	Kevin Ranker	Committee voted in favor (unanimously) of bringing this issue to the full Commission once further research and deliberations are complete and a proposed amendment has been drafted.
2	Is the Charter and the current structure of the Local Government going to be able to serve our County effectively in terms of having respect for the equal and equitable rights of all regardless of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic class, ability, etc.	Jane Fuller	Committee voted in favor (unanimously) of bringing this issue to the full Commission once further research and deliberations are complete and a proposed amendment has been drafted.
3	Deepen/Broaden incorporation of indigenous native values, perspectives, problem solving in County structure	Kyle Davies	Committee voted in favor (unanimously) of bringing this issue to the full Commission once further research and deliberations are complete.
4	Expand recruitment of/inclusion of regional native individuals in government elected, appointed office and civil service	Kyle Davies	To be discussed as part of Issue 2 above.
5	Entertain development of a County-level Consular office for Foreign (Canadian) and Native (Tribal) Affairs	Kyle Davies	Kyle offered to withdraw this issue due to challenges to creating such an office.
6	Proactively incentivize younger and multicultural populations into local Government elected/appointed/decision-making positions	Kyle Davies	To be discussed as part of Issue 2 above.
7	Prioritize creation and expansion of oversight and provision of social and behavioral health services	Kyle Davies	To be discussed
8	Support for kids/schools, having an Educational Office, Rights of Children	Town Hall	To be discussed with issue 7 above.
9	Law Enforcement more involved in community building	Town Hall	To be discussed as part of Issue 2 above.
10	Equal access to health, mental health & housing	Town Hall	To be discussed with Issue 7 above.

Issues under discussion

- Creation of an independent citizen-led Office of 'Justice and Equity' Oversight for the County through an amendment to the Charter that requires the County Council create such an ordinance.
- Integration of the themes of non-discrimination, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion as cross-cutting themes within the Charter.
- Work across CRC Committees to examine how to integrate themes throughout sections of the Charter. Explore creation of a new section of the Charter that can reflect these themes with environment / climate change.

Next steps:

Further consultations and research

- Limited consultations to date:
 - Office of the Superior Court of SJC and
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion expert based on Orcas Island, involved in work on SJC Council Res. #31, 2020.
- List of guest speakers developed - more presentations / discussions going forward.
- Need to consult with other CRC Committees to look at integration of themes throughout sections of the Charter:
 - Operations, Process, Climate Change and Environment, other as needed