



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 18-0526, **Version:** 1

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Recommendation to receive and file a presentation from the National League of Cities regarding the Cities for Racial Equity and Racial Healing Technical Assistance Initiative. (Citywide)

The National League of Cities (NLC) has selected the City of Long Beach (City) as one of only six cities across the nation to participate in its inaugural *Cities for Racial Equity and Racial Healing Technical Assistance Initiative* (Initiative). This opportunity comes to us as a result of the Long Beach Office of Equity's outstanding work to build capacity within the City to take a strong stand on issues affecting equity.

The Initiative is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and strives to strengthen local government leaders' knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial divisions, and build more equitable communities. The NLC offers tools and resources designed to help local elected leaders build safe places where people from all racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds thrive socially, economically, academically and physically.

NLC staff will present a two-hour training session to Department Directors on June 20, 2018. The training will build on our foundational understanding of the history, context, and the terminology of racism and racial equity, and what governing for racial equity requires. The presenters will be Leon Andrews, Aliza Wasserman, and Bernadette Onyenaka from the NLC. They each bring a tremendously rich body of experience in working with diverse city leaders to advance equity.

On June 21, 2018, the NLC will facilitate a training at the Main Library auditorium lobby. This will be an all-day training for elected officials' staff, higher level department staff, and potential racial equity trainers. All City staff, especially bureau managers, officers, and supervisors, are invited and encouraged to participate. These trainings will build the capacity of City leaders and staff to advance racial equity through smart policy decisions and strong civic engagement. This new opportunity adds to the momentum generated by the Office of Equity through its equity trainings, policy analysis and development, community engagement trainings for City staff, and its participation in the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE). The City is in its second year of leadership in GARE. Two cohorts of City staff across 14 departments participated in GARE. Together, this team collaboratively developed a shared analysis and definition of racial equity, conducted an organizational assessment of the City's progress towards advancing equity, and identified opportunities ready for an equity analysis, including the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and the Land Use Element. The 2018 team currently plans to implement racial equity trainings in select departments and to develop departmental ability to authentically and equitably partner and engage with

community residents.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda T. Vu and by Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on June 11, 2018.

There is no fiscal or local job impact associated with this recommendation.

City Council action on this matter is not time critical.

Approve recommendation.

KELLY COLOPY, DIRECTOR  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APPROVED:

PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER