



Western Washington University Associated Students Legislative Affairs Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2022, 4:30 PM

Attendees:

Committee Members: Eli Stanciu, Anna Corinne Huffman, Breaker Chittenden, Teagan Hudson, Marlow Lawson, Grace Alkema, Zach Cohen, Shrija Gandhi

Guests: none

Staff and Assistants: Jennifer Black

Motions:

Eli Stanciu, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Teagan Hudson

To Approve the Minutes from April 11, 2022

Second: Anna Corinne Huffman

Motion passed 6-0-0

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. None

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – GUESTS

a. Teagan Hudson – Local Lobby Day Agenda

- **Teagan Hudson** - Today we are doing the same thing we did last time; I will just go over a little bit and in terms to your opinions about things. All the same notes as last time. We are looking at putting the sitting and lying ordinances on there. We learned more about Bellingham Farmers Market. They have their own policy for an incentive program to buy fresh food at farmer's market. So, this one I am looking more at changing it for county policies. We are thinking about in terms of transportation. People seemed to be concerned about transportation and this seems like an

important issue, but the city does have extensive plan in terms of improving transportation. So, I was thinking about lobbying for the city to make clear updates or forms of how they are presenting the information. Any general comments before we start? No, ok. This is a new one that I've added since we met last. There is a neighborhood in Bellingham, called the Birchwood Neighborhood, in 2016 their grocery store, Albertson's, shut down. Since then, there hasn't been a grocery store in that area, because the way the property is coded. Albertsons had a non-compete on the property before they closed and so they have not been able to put a new store there. The Birchwood food desert fighters are distributing food in the neighborhood and the article linked here states the city hasn't done anything to try to help, because of the noncompete clause. This little part here, is from the article, it is suggestions from the group that the city could do to help. "Why not implement a policy subsidizing childcare to allow parents in Birchwood the time to travel and buy healthy food? Why not reimburse residents for the additional funds they must spend on travel to buy food with vouchers and bus passes? The city could even buy a building and rent it out to Birchwood Food Desert Fighters to create a physical and accessible location in the Birchwood neighborhood." – The Front Article.

- **Breaker Chittenden** – I would like to ask a question about the land. Does Albertsons still own the building?
- **Teagan Hudson** – I don't think so, it is so complicated and unclear. Something that has happened since then is the Birchwood Food Desert Fighters lobbied for the city to establish no more noncompete could happen in Bellingham. This issue that is happening won't happen any more in Bellingham, but it doesn't do anything to address this specific situation.
- **Breaker Chittenden** – I think the asking for food vouchers or bus passes would be a good option.
- **Teagan Hudson** – Voucher & bus passes idea sounds good ok. Other thoughts about the best way to go about addressing this. Do people agree with the voucher idea being the best option?
- **Zach Cohen** – With the Food Desert Fighters if they had a physical and accessible location would they be able to provide food at that location or would they provide other services at that location, what does that look like?

- **Teagan Hudson** – I am assuming the purpose of the building it to continue the services they are already providing which is to distribute food. According to the article, they have been distributing 2,500 pounds of food every week. Which seems like a big operation. The article doesn't explicitly say that, but I am assuming that is the purpose of the building.
- **Zach Cohen** – I think that one considering they are directly helping to meet the needs, depending on the costs and what that looks like for the city, is a pretty good idea as well.
- **Teagan Hudson** – I do think that is a little more plausible because there is the rule that this cannot happen again in the city, and this is a one-time solution. So, I think that this would be a little more plausible. I do think that the first option of subsidizing childcare to allow parent in Birchwood time to travel and buy healthy food is a little more out of our realm of realistic things. I don't know if you guys agree with that. Any more thoughts? No, ok. The last time we met, I brought up the sanctuary city thing and some questions came up about that. Essentially what I found was these are the policies that make a city a sanctuary city:
 - i. Policies restring the ability of state and local police to make arrests for federal immigration violation, or to detain individuals on civil immigration warrants.
 - ii. Policies prohibiting "287(g)" agreements through which ICE deputized local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law.
 - iii. Policies that prevent local governments from entering into a contract with the federal government to hold immigrants in detention.
 - iv. Policies preventing detention centers.
 - v. Policies restricting the police or other city workers from asking about immigration status.
 - vi. Policies restricting the sharing of certain information on immigrants with the federal government.
 - vii. Policies restricting local police responses to federal immigration detainees; and
 - viii. Policies refusing to allow ICE into local jails without a judicial warrant.
- and at this point Bellingham has some of these but not all of these. Local police aren't allowed to make arrests for federal immigration violations, or

to detain individuals on civil immigration warrants. We don't have this agreement which allows ICE to enforce federal immigration law. Another would be restricting the sharing of certain information on immigrants with the federal government. Bellingham has said they are still sharing information. So that is an example of something that we could specifically address. We do have this one about police not being able to ask immigrants about their status. I don't think there is anything that is explicitly disallowing ICE into local jails without a judicial warrant. Essentially, we have a sanctuary city in some ways and in some ways we don't. I guess my question for you guys is which of those things do you think we should honed in on or should I change course. The idea of a sanctuary city and those types of restrictions, something I should look more into and be specific about, or do we think this problem is solved in Bellingham?

- **Breaker Chittenden** - I think it would be great if we could reference the organization that you found the link for and say something like, they have found the guidelines needed to be a sanctuary city and we ask that you be in complete compliance with the guidelines they have created.
- **Anna Corinne Huffman** - I think specificity is good, I think that if you just as for a sanctuary city they will eventually deflect because of what we have in place already. Where did you find that different aspects were allowed?
- **Teagan Hudson** – I could potentially be missing things. The majority of the information that I have found was from when they passed a year or two ago, which was a partial article that discussed this, which was kind of like a don't ask don't tell kind of policy, based off of local law enforcement. *Don't let Council Members confuse you about whether Bellingham is a sanctuary city* *Noisy Waters Northwest* – Posted on July 17, 2019, by Dena. I wasn't sure if I should find a different source source for this article and wanted to look at actual sources for this committee meeting and it is why I didn't source this article, but the article talks about things that council members have said about the policy. It basically said that they were still sharing information with the federal government and didn't make any defining statements about whether they would allow ICE to come in and interfere; but they did refer to the policy as just as making it official what they have been doing since 2006 and in 2019 there were ICE raids. So, if they are just continuing what they have been doing then that must have been allowed.
- **Eli Stanciu** – I noticed in the ask that the Whatcom County stated that they would not enforce, so just to be clear this isn't just at the county level but

also at the city level? It also talks about law offices, does that include the Sherriff's Department; because if it is just the city of Bellingham then that would restrict Bellingham PD but not Whatcom County Sherriff's Department and so on. Can the Sherriff's department do some of these things because they are at the county level? If it is at the county level, then it would apply to the Sherriff.

- **Teagan Hudson** – I would've written down the exact wording, do you think that where it says local police means local pd or it includes the Sherriff as well?
- **Eli Stanciu** – I don't know if local police apply to the sherriff, I would think that it does but you should double check.
- **Breaker Chittenden** - I agree with Eli that local police would cover both the Sherriff and BPD because I believe they have jurisdiction over both. The other thing that I was going to say was if you send an e-mail to the public relations office of the BPD and the Sherriff's office asking them to give clarification on policies on immigrations. They will send you the policy that they have. The policy would be what they currently have. Another thing I was wondering about was did you get the term "don't ask don't tell" from an article?
- **Teagan Hudson** – I did, from a couple. If anyone would like to be more involved with the agenda, you can email me, and I can send you a topic to research. Also, if you guys could look over the agenda and add some comments that would also be appreciated.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Breaker Chittenden – Update about Condom Funding

- a. **Breaker Chittenden** – I gave an update last week about the funding that was granted last quarter. As I said before, the first funding sat for the customized condoms has gone through and we are still working with the company for the dental dams. I am in constant contact with the financial department and the company, and we are going to get them.

b. Eli Stanciu – Local Lobby Day Agenda

- a. I will likely be bringing the local lobby day agenda to the Board as an information item this week, that way it can be approved as an action item next week. So, that we can have it approved before we start lobbying. The Executive Board will not be taking any actions on it until next week Friday.

c. Next Meeting April 25, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Eli Stanciu, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:58 PM