

From: [Rasheed El Shabazz](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Cc: [Elizabeth Mackenzie](#); [Rasheed Shabazz - OGC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boards and Commissions Equity Survey
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:36:28 AM

Peace Lara & Elizabeth,

As part of my interest in exploring issues of equity in the context of Open Government, I am interested in conducting a survey of Alameda's Boards and Commissions.

During the recent Committees related to Police Reform and Racial Equity and the Park Renaming Committee for the park FKA Jackson Park, some people suggested that these two committees had more diverse representation than Alameda's Boards and Commissions. Folks may 'know' or feel that intuitively, but is there any data on the composition of these bodies?

Representation on boards and commissions is one part of Public Access to Meetings. I am interested in the City surveying the Boards and Commissions to understand this aspect of public participation. This connects to the Sunshine Ordinance's goal of having an "informed public" [2.90] and ensuring *all* Alamedans have "opportunities to address the various legislative bodies prior to decisions being made" (my emphasis) [2.90.1].

The demographic question categories could include "neighborhoods," tenure (rent/own), length of time in Alameda, gender identity, race and ethnicity, age, household income, and whether members have children in their households. These demographic questions were on the [Police Reform and Racial Equity community survey](#). The survey could also include when people were appointed and if they've served on any other Boards/Commissions.

I'd also recommend adding two additional questions: reasons why you have chosen to serve and obstacles you have experienced while serving. Understanding motivations and obstacles may also be useful for the City as it seeks to increase representation as part of its General Plan.

Can this be agendaized for the June or July meeting? The recommendation would be for the OGC and/or staff to conduct this survey, and/or to advise the City Council to direct staff to conduct the survey in order to improve the implementation of the Sunshine Ordinance [2-22.4b/e].

In terms of age, representation of renters, lower-income people, etc., this survey can help the City understand how diverse, inclusive, and equitable Alameda's Boards and Commissions are.

Thank you.

Rasheed