



*City of Bristol
Diversity Council*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/82946776934?pwd=cEVOUnVJaExGQlF3WFhHak1JZUJ3dz09>

*Meeting ID: 829 4677 6934
Passcode: 346884*

The Diversity Council Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30pm as a Hybrid Meeting: both In-Person and on Zoom. The In-Person will be in Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Bristol, CT

- I. Call to Order
- II. Council Attendance
- III. Public Participation
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. November 25, 2025 Regular Meeting
 - b. January 27, 2026 Special Meeting
- V. Current Business
 - a. Mantel Clock Canvas Donation
 - b. "Words Matter" Event Update
 - Date/Room
 - Current Guest List
 - Format Structure
 - Promotion
 - c. Cash Mob Rollout Cadence
- VI. New Business

- a. West End Association / Rockwell Festival
- Diversity Council Options
- b. United Way Resource Sheet (Optimization Ideas)
- c. Council Roundtable News and Notes

VII. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE INTERIM CHAIR, MARCUS PATTON

Diversity Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 6:30pm
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and on Zoom
Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Bristol, CT

Attendees: Marcus Patton-Interim Chair, Council Members Jeff Israel (Zoom), Sandra Kamens, and David Rackliffe

Absent: Council Member Tony Lopes

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 6:34pm, and a quorum was present.

II. Council Attendance

Council attendance was taken and noted above.

III. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2025

The Interim Chair called for a motion to approve the Minutes from October 28, 2025. Council Member Rackliffe made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kamens. There were no changes or corrections noted. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted into the record.

V. Current Business

a. City Meeting Updates

Council Member Rackliffe was unable to attend the monthly ECD Board Meeting, but he did attend the NACCP Freedom Fund event. It was well attended, and Bobbie Brown from the BOE in Bridgeport was the keynote speaker.

Council Member Kamens was unable to attend the meetings she had planned to and will check the calendar for December meetings to attend.

Council Member Israel was unable to attend the meetings he had planned to and will revisit his schedule. He took this time to mention the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service taking place tomorrow the 26th at 7pm at the Prospect Methodist Church on Summer Street.

The Interim Chair was unable to attend the City Council Meeting but did attend the Food Share/Food Insecurity Meeting with the Mayor and around 130+/- in attendance. The Interim Chair was able to raise awareness about the Diversity Council while there. Discussion of Council branded shirts and cards followed to raise awareness, encourage participation and build connections.

b. American Clock and Watch Museum Update

The Council thanked all who participated in the Mantels for the Season "It's Always Time for Diversity" themed display/entry at The American Clock and Watch Museum. Items such as 3D snowflakes, 1D snowflake art, gingerbread house garland and more were included artwork made by students from Bristol Central High School Art Club. The main piece is a photo mosaic that Council Member Israel created which includes Bristol iconography, key elements that symbolize a diversity of faith, etc. Discussion of the project details, design and goals followed.

The museum provided the Council with four (4) guest passes as part of their participation in the Mantels for the Season display. The Council discussed how to best use the passes and agreed to offer them to the Bristol Central Art Club.

The following motion was drafted and read as follows:

Motion to approve the offer of four (4) American Clock and Watch Museum passes to the Bristol Central Art Club (BCAC) leadership in appreciation for their contributions to the Diversity Council Mantel, and to be distributed to the art club members at their discretion.

Council Member Rackliffe made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kamens. All were in favor and the Motion was accepted into the record. Interim Chair Patton will ensure the delivery of the passes to the BCAC leadership. The Council expressed their gratitude for being included in this year's event.

c. Update on "Words Matter" Event 1st Quarter 2026

Details of the "Words Matter" event were discussed in detail at length. The conversation covered options for the format and flow of the event, as well as various logistics, such as bringing in a featured speaker, and event goals. The Open Mic forum as used for the April 2025 Diversity Council Meet and Greet, a panel of writers and educators, and focusing on "hot button" words were among the ideas discussed.

An additional item update was provided through the Interim Chair from Superintendent Iris White. In a message to the Interim Chair, Ms. White met with the District Equity Leadership Team, and there's an interest in running community forums on equity in the Spring of 2026. The Leadership would like to partner with the Diversity Council in the planning of the events. More information will be forthcoming.

Also, the Guac n Roll Cash Mob was well attended and any additional data re: financials and numbers of orders has not yet been provided to the Council.

VI. New Business

a. Revisit 2026 Meeting Schedule

The Council confirmed they won't hold a December 2026 Meeting. The proposed meeting schedule was updated to include the meeting times.

The Interim Chair expressed the mayor's desire to offer a City Council Member liaison to the Diversity Council, but a member isn't available for the regular Tuesday meetings. Discussion of alternate meetings dates followed.

The Council Members are more regularly attending the City Council Meetings, and it's also possible that the City Council liaison assignments could be rotated. Rotating the post was noted

as a possibility that would encourage diversity in that role and raise more awareness among the City Council as well.

The proposed meeting schedule will be provided to the Town Clerk's Office for their recording purposes.

b. 2026 Diversity Council Strategy

The growth of the Diversity Council membership was discussed. There was a lot of interest in others joining, but no new members have been added yet. The 2026 Membership Strategy will be a new and regular meeting Agenda item. The need for a social media expert to help build awareness using the social media algorithm was introduced with brief discussion.

c. Holiday Opportunities

The food drive collection at the American Clock Museum was mentioned, and the All Heart Events page will have all the submitted seasonal events and fundraisers posted.

Planning for the next quarterly Cash Mob event will begin at the January 2026 Diversity Council Meeting. Members were asked to consider business categories of interest for the focus of the next Cash Mob and bring them to the January meeting.

VII. Adjournment

The Interim Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Rackliffe and was seconded by Council Member Kamens. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:57pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Arsego

Recording Secretary

Diversity Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:30pm

Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and on Zoom

Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Bristol, CT

ATTENDEES: Interim Chair Marcus Patton, Council Members Anthony Lopes, Sandy Kamens, Jeff Israel, David Rackliffe, Carolyn Palmquist, and Danny Palmquist

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

I. Call to Order

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. Council Attendance & Welcoming New Members

Council Member Roll Call was completed with introductions by the Council's new members. Danny Palmquist shared his interest in understanding more about marginalized groups. Carolyn Palmquist shared her interest in reconnecting to the community and providing use of their talents to the Council. The Interim Chair thanked them for joining the Council and welcomed them on behalf of all the Commissioners. Interim Chair Patton advised members that an additional new Council Member may be added in time for the February Meeting.

III. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

Council Members Jeff Israel and Dave Rackliffe joined the meeting at 6:35pm.

IV. Business Update

a. Mantles Conclusion

Appreciation for the Council Member's contributions to the 2025 Mantles event at the American Clock & Watch Museum. Thomaston Savings Bank won the votes from the visitors to the Mantles Event and donated their winnings back to the museum.

Discussion followed regarding how to best display and/or store the working clock mosaic representing the rich and diverse communities in Bristol. The Interim Chair noted that the art student's involvement in their mantel display has sparked discussion with the museum in regard to a possible invite to the school's to have a display of their own in 2026.

b. Dave attend MLK breakfast

Council Member Rackliffe shared his experience attending the MLK Breakfast featuring Bristol School Superintendent, Iris White. She spoke to her own background and philosophies, and the event's focus was on the young children and their involvement in the event. Council Member Rackliffe believed the event was a reflective and well run event.

Council Member Carolyn Palmquist also attended and added that singers included Melina Floyd as well as area students.

c. Dave and Marcus met with Superintendent and Equity Leadership Team

The Interim Chair and Council Member Rackliffe provided background and an update on their attendance at an Equity Leadership Team online meeting as guests of Superintendent Iris White. Leading up to the virtual meeting, the two members met with the Superintendent to better understand the goals and function of the Equity Leadership Team.

Members of this team are volunteers and include educators from the various are schools. The team was formed to address overlap with their interests and those of groups like the Diversity Council. Representation included math intervention, Spanish and ESL, ELA, special education leaders, a Dean of Students, among others.

The Diversity Council's history and current position was shared with the group. Discussion followed including the possible return of school clubs that had been active in the past, including the Gay Straight Alliance which Commissioners Carolyn and Danny Palmquist offered a resource for, root causes and areas of concern that the team could address. It was noted that the Community Conversations the Council had held, and which several educators had been a part of, was still being regarded as an impactful tool. Interest is high in holding a similar event again.

The Team shared tangible examples of diversity and community related contributions made and/or contributed to the previous year. The student liaison opportunities were also encouraged. The Team will be at the February Diversity Council Meeting, and the Council was asked to consider questions to be posed at that time.

V. Current Business

a. 1Q Cash Mob Option

A review of the Q4 2025 Cash Mob event in terms of how the businesses were chosen, voting logistics, and the outcome. Guac 'N Roll was the winning business and has reported a significant impact on their business, including a 30% increase in business on the Cash Mob day, and the community's recognition of them which they see started which before the Cash Mob date.

Further discussion followed regarding the parameters for choosing the next pool of businesses for voting and how to best define metrics and define a successful event with each winning business. A pool of businesses for the next voting round will be presented at the next Diversity Council meeting to be posted on social media at the end of February 2026.

b. 2026 Diversity Council Strategy

Discussion regarding the Council's membership included a goal of doubling their current number (7). Strategies includes advertising the events and programs held by the Council and building awareness of their council through their social media presence. Council members were encouraged to invite their contacts, resources and those they speak with in the community to listen to or attend a meeting and consider joining as a member.

Budgeting for and requesting budget funds for bigger Diversity Council backed events was also discussed.

c. “Words Matter” Event and Execution Plan

The “Words Matter” event will be held at the main Bristol Library which is provided to the Council free of charge. Council Members agreed to provide refreshments as private donations for attendees. With the addition of two new members, Council Member Lopes joined the planning team with Council Member Rackliffe and Kamens. Discussion followed regarding the event’s ideal format to encourage conversation at the event and encouraging additional discussion after. The Interim Chair encouraged the involvement of the Equity Leadership Team, who expressed an interest in being involved.

March 24th and March 31st are the two possible dates for the “Words Matter” event. Room availability at the library is a determining factor, and if it is held on the 24th it will replace the Diversity Council’s regular meeting for that day. Council branded t-shirts will be provided for the members to wear at this event.

VI. Adjournment

The Interim Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Rackliffe and was seconded by Council Member Kamens. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary