

04-10-2019 Town Council Meeting
Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #10: Receive the Community Connections Strategy

Council Question: Which community partners were engaged as part of the development of the strategy?

Staff Response: *Staff have shared and invited input on the draft Community Connections Strategy broadly with 60+ community organizations and faith institutions, including those that focus in particular on serving immigrant and refugees, youth, low-income households, and people of color. We also held more intensive one-on-one meetings with key community organizations that do community organizing and engagement as part of their core business, such as the Jackson Center, to solicit their input. As this is an iterative document, we see the engagement and input process as ongoing and anticipate continuing to incorporate community partner input as we work together on Strategy implementation.*

Council Question: Under Objective #2, has there been any consideration of reaching out to religious institutions, in some capacity, such as predominantly black and Latinx churches, synagogues and mosques in town?

Staff Response: *Yes, we anticipate religious institutions will be among the key community partners for implementation of the Community Connections Strategy. Over the past two years, Housing and Community staff have conducted extensive outreach to Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and other spiritual communities to build relationships and explore partnership opportunities. We intentionally focused on inclusion of Latinx and Black churches and will continue to redouble our efforts here to build a stronger connection with these communities. What we learned from our engagement efforts helped inform the Community Connections Strategy. We shared the draft Strategy with our key contacts within Chapel Hill faith communities this past Friday when the Council Agenda Packet was published and invited continued input on the proposed Strategy.*