

Kenosha



County

**Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission
Agenda**

Kenosha County Administration Building
2nd Floor Committee Room

January 19, 2023 at 6:00pm

NOTE: UNDER THE KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD RULES OF PROCEDURE ANY REPORT, RESOLUTION, ORDINANCE OR MOTION APPEARING ON THIS AGENDA MAY BE AMENDED, WITHDRAWN, REMOVED FROM THE TABLE, RECONSIDERED OR RESCINDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AT THIS OR AT FUTURE MEETINGS. NOTICE OF SUCH MOTIONS TO RECONSIDER OR RESCIND AT FUTURE MEETINGS SHALL BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2 C OF THE COUNTY BOARD RULES. FURTHERMORE, ANY MATTER DEBATED BY A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD TO BE GERMANE TO AN AGENDA ITEM MAY BE DISCUSSED AND ACTED UPON DURING THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING AND ANY NEW MATTER NOT GERMANE TO AN AGENDA ITEM MAY BE REFERRED TO THE PROPER COMMITTEE. ANY PERSON WHO DESIRES THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR PRIOR TO AN AGENDA ITEM BEING DISCUSSED SHOULD REQUEST A COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR TO CALL SUCH REQUEST TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOARD CHAIRMAN.

1. Call To Order
2. Approval Of Minutes
3. Citizen Comments
4. Finalization And Issuance Of REEC Arrest Report

Kenosha County Racial And Ethnic Equity Commission Report Concerning Arrests And Race

Documents:

[REEC ARREST REPORT 1.19.23.PDF](#)

5. Discussion Of Housing
6. Responsibilities Of Commissioners
7. March 2023 Report To Executive Committee
8. Update Regarding Participation In 1/16 Lincoln Middle School "Moving Forward To Sustainable Change" Event
9. Additional Data Regarding Sheriffs Hiring
10. Future Scheduling
11. Adjourn

[DRAFT]

Kenosha County Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission

Report Concerning Arrests and Race

TO: Kenosha County Board,
Executive Committee

DATE: January 19, 2023

We make the following factual findings based on data gathered and furnished by the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department¹ and recommend that the Kenosha County Board take the following actions:

FINDING: Law enforcement has a sustained record of disproportionately arresting Black adults . In 2021 -- the most recent year for which data was available - Black adults were almost 7 times -- 6.82 x -- more likely to be arrested than were White adults. In 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017, Black adults were 6.4, 6.9, 5.8, and 5.7 times more likely to be arrested than were White adults.

FINDING: Law enforcement also has a sustained record of disproportionately arresting Black juveniles, ages ten through seventeen . In 2021, Black juveniles were 5.5 times more likely to be arrested than their White counterparts. In 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017, Black juveniles were 4.8, 5.7, 5.1, and 3.9 times more likely to be arrested than were White juveniles.

FINDING: Whether the product of racial animus, the appearance of disparate impact based on race in law enforcement is a serious community problem which requires immediate, consequential action by government . Even the appearance of racial animus by law enforcement undermines comity and effective law enforcement.

RECOMMENDATION: Kenosha County should promptly retain, fully fund, and robustly support a qualified independent consultant with prior relevant experience in the law enforcement context to (i) investigate the reasons for this apparent disparate impact, (ii) propose measures to eliminate any of its impermissible causes and to otherwise substantially reduce it, (iii) prepare a written report to the Kenosha County Board which describes its work, findings and proposals.

RECOMMENDATION: Beginning in 2023, Kenosha County should implement record-keeping which tracks the race, color, and gender self-identification of arrested persons and, beginning in 2024, should make such data publicly available.

¹ A copy of that data is attached to this Report as **Exhibit 1** and is incorporated by reference.

