

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS AT UNC CHAPEL HILL
BUILDING INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Hannah Gill, hgill@email.unc.edu

Sanford Equity Task Force publishes findings and recommendation report

Sanford, NC, November 16, 2021: The Sanford Equity Task Force presented its findings and recommendations to the Sanford City Council on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021. Presenters included Robert Bridwell, Trina Garrison, Brianna Gilmore, Bishop Charles Mellette, Margaret Murchison, Jeannette Peace, and Fred Webb. The Task Force, which convened for twelve months in 2020-2021, examined data and created recommendations to address racial and ethnic disparities in Sanford and Lee County in key areas of wages and income, housing, criminal justice, education, health, leadership, and communication.

The Task Force presented 56 recommendations, including the following priorities: expand community policing; establish a mental health crisis response team; create a Livable Housing Initiative in East Sanford, Woodland Avenue, Washington Avenue, and Jonesboro; collaborate with the private sector to promote equitable hiring and promotion and secure living wages for working residents; and create an Equity Advisory Board and a permanent staff position dedicated to implementing recommendations. The full report is available [here \(go.unc.edu/SanfordEquity\)](https://go.unc.edu/SanfordEquity).

The Building Integrated Communities Program at the Institute for the Study of the Americas co-facilitated the Task Force process with Bishop Charles Mellette of Christian Provision Ministries in Sanford, NC.

For more information about the Building Integrated Communities initiative at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, UNC Chapel Hill, visit <https://migration.unc.edu/building-integrated-communities/>.

