

# DIVERSE DIALOGUES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF ANNA  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMISSION

February 2021

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

*Submitted by Dyanne Lockridge, Chair*

The year of 2020 will be historically documented as one that fractured the constitutional foundations of our freedom. Economic, racial, gender, immigration, and religious bigotry was rampant in tone and actions. Thousands died from an uncontrolled pandemic. Mega and small businesses, schools, and houses of worship were closed; and our nation's political climate grew more and more toxic.

We hoped and prayed the new year, 2021, would be better for our nation.

On January 6, 2021, domestic terrorists attempted to completely dismantle our democracy. The unsuccessful, hate filled insurrection resulted in death and desecration in the halls of the United States Capitol...our Capitol.

One week later the 45th president of our nation was impeached for the second time.

While structural damage can be repaired and President Biden is our new Commander in Chief; the emotional and spiritual health of our nation, our states and our cities must be restored. The Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Commission of the City of Anna, Texas is proud to serve as a guiding light in renewing the spirit of hope and unity in our community. Our proposed programs and projects will serve to provide

dialogue and citizen opportunities to share in our needed healing.

We are a multi-racial/cultural/religious body, comprised of men and women who reflect the diversity of our nation and our city. We are Independents, Democrats and Republicans. When you look in your mirror you will see us. Where you worship, work, visit or play in Anna, Texas, you will see us.

We are your neighbors, and we welcome the opportunity to *talk about it*.

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## Getting Started

*Submitted by Mandy Kellam*

The Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Commission was established in late 2020, and spent the last quarter of the year defining our mission and getting organized. We were excited to hit the ground running in January, and the City's leadership tasked the Commission with evaluating and advising Council on the proposed placement of a statue of Collin McKinney that was gifted to the City in Summer 2019.

Though and founding father of our city, Collin McKinney was also a slave owner, a fact which is necessitated that the City reconsider whether and where it would be appropriate to place a statue of his likeness.

To assist the Commission in evaluating this matter and making an informed recommendation, members asked City staff to solicit feedback from the community in the form of a survey. Survey feedback was presented to Commission members at our February meeting and will form the basis of our discussion and recommendation when we reconvene in March.

## Community Events- Submitted by Rose Williams

The Community Events subcommittee partnered with the Programs & Events Committee to create a month-long event to celebrate Black History Month. The contest, detailed in the photo below, challenges our neighbors to learn and share about the important figures in Black History who have made our country what it is today.



### JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### Neighborhood Challenge

##### ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

Starting February 5th, we will post a picture and the name of a historical figure on our City's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Anna-261332118633373>. Neighbors will have 3 days (until 11:59pm on the third day) to submit a fact about the posted historical figure. The team with the most submissions will win the point for that round; there will be a total of 8 rounds.

##### TEAMS

**Team 1:** Creekside, The Falls, Lakeview Estates, Oak Hollow Estates, Meadow Ridge Estates, Park Place, Pecan Grove, West Crossing, Wildwood, and Willow Creek.

**Team 2:** Anna Town Square, Avery Point, Camden Parc, North Plum Crossing, Settler's Way, Sweetwater Crossing, Tara Farms, Urban Crossing, Westfield, and all remaining Neighbors.

##### DATES OF ROUNDS

###### February 5th - 28th

Round 1: February 5th-7th  
Round 2: February 8th-10th  
Round 3: February 11th-13th  
Round 4: February 14th-16th  
Round 5: February 17th-19th  
Round 6: February 20th-22nd  
Round 7: February 23rd-25th  
Round 8: February 26th-28th

##### SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:

Recreation@annatexas.gov. In the subject please include the name of the historical figure, your team number and your neighborhood.



## Subcommittee Corners

*Chamber & Business- Submitted by Gina Maria*

During the month of January, Chamber & Business subcommittee head Gina Maria attended the Anna Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting, as well as those of the Community and Education Development Centers, and was introduced as the Commission's liaison with these partners.

As a part of the Commission's partnership with the Anna Chamber, the Commission voted to award the first-ever "New to Civic Engagement" Scholarship to empower an Anna neighbor to become civically engaged by attending Leadership Anna, scheduled to take place in May.

*Youth- Submitted by Curtis Scretchen*

During the month of January, Youth Subcommittee lead Curtis Scretchen attended a meeting of the Hope Squad at Anna High School to introduce himself as a liaison from the Commission.

*Internal Processes- Submitted by Mandy Kellam*

During the month of January, the Internal Processes subcommittee assisted City staff in the development of a survey to solicit feedback from Anna neighbors regarding the placement of the previously gifted statue of Collin McKinney.

Additionally, the Internal Processes subcommittee solicited feedback from Commission members to select a name for our monthly newsletter, settling on "Diverse Dialogues".

Subcommittee members also tasked ourselves with researching the diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives successfully implemented in municipalities across the nation to identify potential best practices that may enrich the City of Anna's diversity efforts as an employer.

*Police & Safety- Submitted by Dyanne Lockridge*

Anna Police Chief Dean Habel expressed his support and commitment to partnership opportunities between the commission and the police department. A mid-February subcommittee meeting will be held to identify ways and means to solidify our partnership.

## Member Profile

### *Dyanne Lockridge, Chair*



Dyanne Lockridge serves not only as the Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Commission, but also serves as the Liaison to the Police & Safety Subcommittee and as a member on the

Chamber and Local Business Committee.

Dyanne's personal and professional commitment to Diversity and Inclusion is indisputable. As the Retired Director of the City of Tulsa's Human Rights Department, Dyanne spent 38 years as a professional and community advocate and enforcer of municipal, state, and federal equal rights laws and policies. In her tenure, Dyanne created extensive Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action training and programs; the first Minority/Female Business Certification/Contracting program in the State of Oklahoma; and the first mentoring program between local churches and the City of Tulsa for youth and community enhancement.

Dyanne was the first Black female to chair the City of Tulsa United Way Campaign, as well as the first Black woman appointed to the Tulsa Community College Board of Trustees. Additionally, she has previously served on local, state, and national boards including: the Ronald McDonald House, Tulsa Speech and Hearing, and the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce Multicultural Board. She is a charter member of the North Tulsa Rotary Club and a graduate of Leadership Tulsa Academy.

As a certified event planner, Dyanne has chaired and coordinated local, state, and national organizations annual conferences. (i.e., the International Organization of Official Human Rights Agencies, The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officials).

Dyanne is the recipient of numerous local, state, and national awards. Most notably, she was named "One of the Most Influential Women in Oklahoma" in 2001.

Dyanne's passion for diversity and equality led her to serve as a founding member of Anna's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Commission. Says Dyanne: "One mission of the 'Baby Boomer' generation, my generation, was to continue the fight to eradicate discrimination. The beatings, arrests, and threats of violence did not deter our goal. The passage of federal and state anti-discrimination laws in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was historic, but we knew that the struggle was not over. Becoming a published author in 2014, my focus has been writing, and enjoying my family with my husband, Billy Lockridge, and our grandchildren. However, in the words of the late Congressman John Lewis, 'go make good trouble'; I, like many Boomers, dusted off our marching shoes, reclaimed our voices and joined our children and grandchildren in their fight for justice, equity, and fairness for all. I believed God ordered my steps to Anna, Texas, and I am humbled and honored to serve the people of our city."

*The mission of the City of Anna Diversity & Inclusion Commission is to engage and energize all neighbors, create dialogue opportunities among community members, support and enhance cultural diversity, provide a vehicle for neighbors to listen and learn about all persons, and ultimately ensure that Anna is a Community that is truly welcoming to all who live, work, serve, and visit here.*