

The public can join the meeting to provide public comment. Please notify Jessica Foos at JFoos@flagstaffaz.gov if you need any assistance joining the meeting.

NOTICE AND AGENDA

ATTENTION

IN-PERSON AUDIENCES AT COMMISSION MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

[Click here to participate in the online meeting](#)

NOTICE AND AGENDA

**COMMISSION ON DIVERSITY AWARENESS
TUESDAY
JUNE 15, 2021**

**VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE
1:30 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

NOTE: One or more Commission Members may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means.

Robert "Dan" Duke, Chair
Mandy Martinez Gebler
Claire Hardii
Christine Tucci

Marcela Pino
Jean Toner
DeAnn Wegwert, Vice Chair

3. **Public Comment**

The Commission cannot act upon items presented during the Public Participation portion of the Agenda. Individual Commission members may ask questions of the public but are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussion or considering the item among themselves until the item is officially placed on the Agenda. Each public comment or presentation will be limited to five (5) minutes.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **Consideration and Approval of Minutes:** Commission on Diversity Awareness Meeting of May 18, 2021.

Approve the minutes of the Commission on Diversity Awareness Meeting of May 18, 2021.

5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING-** July 20, 2021 at 1:30 pm

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

7. **REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Welcome New Commissioner Members**

Welcome Claire Hardii and Christine Tucci. Each new member should introduce themselves to the Commission.

B. Planning a Retreat/Strategic Plan for Commission, Action Plan and Priorities for Commission

Update from the Staff Liaison:

- Review the draft Agenda for the Retreat
- Dates and Times: June 30th beginning at 9am or 3pm, July 13th at 1pm

C. Proclamations Work Group Update

Discuss any upcoming Proclamations for the Work Group to focus on.

1. Pride Proclamation Update

- Read on June 1st at the Pride Flag raising
- Will read at June 15th Council meeting

D. Commission Partnerships and Updates

1. Beautification and Public Arts Commission

Informational item.

2. NAU Diversity Commission Report

Review and discuss any reports or updates from Dr. Gabe Montano or Commissioner Pino.

3. Flagstaff High School Students Advocate for Renaming the Peaks

Discuss the presentation from the Flagstaff High School Native American Club and any follow up action items.

G. Sanctuary Cities

8. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETING(S)

A. Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments - Nominations and voting of Chair and Vice-Chair – July agenda

9. ADJOURNMENT

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on _____, at _____ a.m./p.m. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at www.flagstaff.az.gov.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst



Commission on Diversity Awareness

4. A.

From: Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst

DATE: 06/15/2021

SUBJECT: Consideration and Approval of Minutes: Commission on Diversity Awareness Meeting of May 18, 2021.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the minutes of the Commission on Diversity Awareness Meeting of May 18, 2021.

Executive Summary:

Minutes of the Commission meetings of the Commission on Diversity Awareness are a requirement of Arizona Revised Statutes and, additionally, provide a method of informing the public of discussions and actions being taken by the Commission.

Attachments

May 2021 Minutes DRAFT

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Duke called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

2. Roll Call

NOTE: One or more Commission Members may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means.

PRESENT:	ABSENT:
Jean Toner	Deborah Corey
DeAnn Wegwert, Vice-chair	
Marcela Pino	
Mounia Mnouer	
Mandy Gebler	
Dan Duke, Chair	

3. Public Comment

The Commission cannot act upon items presented during the Public Participation portion of the Agenda. Individual Commission members may ask questions of the public but are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussion or considering the item among themselves until the item is officially placed on the Agenda. Each public comment or presentation will be limited to five (5) minutes.

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Consideration and Approval of Minutes: Commission on Diversity Awareness Meeting of April 20, 2021.

Approve the minutes of the Commission on Diversity Awareness Meeting of April 20, 2021.

Sanctuary Cities update: Commissioner Toner provided an amendment to the April minutes. The Sheriff was not invited to a Commission meeting but intend to invite to a future meeting. Chair

Duke motioned for the April 20, 2021 minutes to be approved. Commissioner Toner second motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - June 15, 2021 at 1:30 pm

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Review and Approve:** Proclamation for Pride Month

Review draft proclamation from the Work Group and approve the language as is or with edits to recommend the proclamation to the Mayor's office.

The commission made some updates and edits to the order of the wording and the verbiage of the proclamation. Chair Duke motioned and Commissioner Mnouer seconded to approve the proclamation with edits and forward to Mayor Deasy's office. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mnouer noted that the Asian American and Pacific Islander Month Proclamation was not read. Staff Liaison to follow up with the Mayor's Office and it was recommended by Mayor Deasy to copy him on all Proclamations to ensure he receives them.

7. **REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **New Commissioner updates**

Thank You Deborah Corey and Dr. Mnouia Mnouer for their service on the Commission on Diversity Awareness. Two new Commissioners will begin in June to replace the two outgoing members.

Commissioner thanked the outgoing Commission members for their service to the Commission.

B. **Commission Partnerships**

1. **Beautification and Public Arts Commission**

- a. Michael Cruz talked about how the Beautification and Public Arts Commission wants to collaborate with other groups in town to share information and potentially partner.
- b. BPAC discussed other commissions and how they could work together. BPAC Commissioner Cruz will be the point of contact for CODA.

2. **Commission Partnerships**

Discuss upcoming Diversity meetings and assign CODA Commissioner Member if applicable

- a. Commissioner Pino recommended the Indigenous Commission as a potential partnership.
- b. Commissioners requested the Liaison bring the list of other City Commissions to the Retreat and assign members to attend various meetings

3. **NAU Diversity Commission Report**

Review and discuss any reports or updates from Dr. Gabe Montano or Commissioner Pino.

Commissioner Pino provided an update. DEI is a focus for the new incoming President.

C. **Flagstaff High School Students Advocate for Renaming the Peaks**

Listen to the presentation from the Flagstaff High School Native American Club and discuss.

- a. Native American Club introduced themselves and provided the presentation.
- b. Commission asked how they can support the Students in their goal to change the name of the peaks.
- c. Vice Chair Wegwert motioned this item stay on the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Reminded recordings are posted online within 3 days of the meeting. Liaison to send the recording link to the Commission once it is posted.
- e. Vice Chair requested the liaison send the recording of this meeting to the two new members once appointed.

D. Planning a Retreat/Strategic Plan for Commission, Action Plan and Priorities for Commission

Update from the Staff Liaison

Staff Liaison sent out a survey for potential dates/times for the Retreat. Liaison will send the survey to the new members.

If possible, the Commission would prefer in person with virtual option for the retreat.

E. Proclamations Work Group Update

Discuss any upcoming Proclamations for the Work Group to focus on.

October – Spanish Heritage Month

F. Sanctuary Cities

Ongoing agenda item
No formal invitations out

8. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETING(S)

- A. Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments - Nominations and voting of Chair and Vice-Chair – July agenda

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Duke adjourned the meeting at 3:17 PM.



Commission on Diversity Awareness

7. A.

From: Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst

DATE: 06/15/2021

SUBJECT: **Welcome New Commissioner Members**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Welcome Claire Hardii and Christine Tucci. Each new member should introduce themselves to the Commission.

Executive Summary:



Commission on Diversity Awareness

7. B.

From: Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst

DATE: 06/15/2021

SUBJECT: Planning a Retreat/Strategic Plan for Commission, Action Plan and Priorities for Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Update from the Staff Liaison:

- Review the draft Agenda for the Retreat
- Dates and Times: June 30th beginning at 9am or 3pm, July 13th at 1pm

Executive Summary:

The Strategic Planning Retreat will be to discuss what actions and recommendations the Commission can provide to the Council from the Diversity Survey results.

Attachments

Retreat Agenda DRAFT
Diversity Survey Results



DRAFT

Flagstaff City Commission on Diversity Awareness

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Virtual Meeting

2-3 hours

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - Deborah Corey
 - DeAnn Wegwert, Vice Chair
 - Marcela Pino
 - Dan (Robert) Duke, Chair
 - Jean Toner
- III. Recommended Protocol for Members and Other Participants in the Virtual Meeting

All individuals should have their microphones on mute to keep the background noise out of the chat room. The Chair of the meeting should ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak if they would like.
- IV. Public Participation

The Commission cannot act upon items presented during the Public Participation portion of the Agenda. Individual Commission members may ask questions of the public but are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussion or considering the item among themselves until the item is officially placed on the Agenda. Each public comment or presentation will be limited to five (5) minutes.
- V. Welcome and Introduction
- VI. Goals for the Retreat
 - a. Diversity Survey Plan of Action
 - b. Plan to increase partnerships with other Commissions
- VII. Review Enacting Authority (attachment)
 - a. It shall be the Commission's duty to advise the City Council on issues and methods in promoting diversity awareness within the City of Flagstaff.
 - b. Review Functions in Enacting Authority
- VIII. Diversity Survey (attachment)
 - a. Review Survey and Results
 - b. Establish a plan of action/recommendations to council from survey/Next steps
 - c. NAU Diversity report?
- IX. Partnerships
 - a. County and City list of Boards and Commissions
- X. Adjournment

“The Commission on Diversity Awareness: A commission to foster support, respect, awareness and appreciation of diversity among all citizens of Flagstaff.”

Findings from Survey on Climate for Diversity in Flagstaff Arizona City Council January 26, 2021

Commission on Diversity Awareness

Dr. Jean Toner, MSW, PhD

Ms. DeAnn Wegwert, MS, RN



Introduction

- Previously we have presented to Council on our overall Commission outcomes; this presentation will focus specifically on the survey on climate for diversity in Flagstaff

Agenda

- Dr. Toner will provide an overview of the survey on climate for diversity in Flagstaff
 - History
 - Purpose
 - Delivery
 - Disclaimer regarding timing of data collection
- Methodology
- Ms. Wegwert will provide a summary of key findings
- Dr. Toner and Ms. Wegwert will provide discussion and recommendations

Overview

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve the Flagstaff community, a diverse and rich community





History

- In discussions on the Commission, we recognized that there was a dearth of community-wide data on the general climate for diversity in Flagstaff with which to establish our priorities and recommendations to forward to Council



Purpose

- We determined that to establish data-driven efforts on the Commission, we needed to begin a process of community-wide gathering of residents' views on the climate for diversity.

Delivery

- We were granted permission to load the survey into the HR Department's Survey Monkey program and post the online survey on the Commission on Diversity Awareness page on the City website.

Disclaimer

- Data were collected prior to COVID pandemic and pre-George Floyd and Black Lives Matter demonstrations

Methodology

- Research questions:
 1. Discover the general climate toward diversity among city residents
 2. Gain insight into how that climate is expressed in specific settings and venues
 3. Investigate any association between residents' demographics and experience of climate for diversity
 4. Field suggestions from residents for future work for the Commission for Diversity Awareness



Methodology

- Research design and data collection
 - 15 question survey focused on welcoming and comfort in various settings and venues, and suggestions for future work
 - utilized a scale from “very comfortable” to “very uncomfortable”
 - Scaled questions were followed by open-ended questions exploring the question’s content

Methodology

- Sample strategy
 - Non-probability, convenience sample open to any Flagstaff resident
 - Appropriate for early exploratory stages of research where clarification is sought, but generalizability is not achievable; helpful in clarification of issues to inform future research
 - Samples respondents who are available and able to participate
 - Can be delivered quickly, generally easily, and at low cost

Methodology

- Quantitative data analysis
 - Survey Monkey analytic tools calculated frequencies and graphic representations were created
 - Ranges were calculated and missing data reported
- Qualitative
 - Thematic analysis was conducted on qualitative data, with two analysts coding separately, then comparing for confirmation and trustworthiness



Methodology

- Limitations to the research design
 - Placement of survey on Commission website, rather than the public survey area of the City website front page
 - Researchers not having access to the survey because of not being an employee with administrative status
 - No availability of cross-tab analytic tool in this version of Survey Monkey, so associations could not be drawn among categories



Methodology

- However, even given the study limitations, the response rate was sufficiently robust to be useful, the demographic correspondence between the respondents and overall City population is significant, and the descriptive data provide a great deal of insight.

Quantitative Findings

- Total of 154 respondents to the online survey.
- Frequencies were calculated, presented with frequency charts and bar graphs which appear in the written report.
- The demographic profiles of respondents were compared to the demographics for the city of Flagstaff as reported by the US Census Quick Facts, 2018 when comparisons were available (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/flagstaffcityarizona,US/PST045219>).

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents

Race/ethnicity	respondents	City 2018	Frequency
	percentage	percentage	
Caucasian/white	57	77	78
African American	.75	2.3	1
Latino/a	20	19	27
Native American	16	8.5	21
Asian/Pacific	3	2.7	5
Two+	7	4.6	10
Not listed	3		5

Gender of Respondents

Gender	respondents	City 2018	frequency
	percentage	percentage	
Female	63	50.5	88
Male	31		43
Intersex	1		1
Genderqueer	1		2
Transgender	2		4

Age of Respondents

age	respondents	City 2018	Frequency
	percentage	percentage	
18-25 years	11	36	16
26-40 years	40	28	57
41-60 years	41	20	60
61+ years	9	8.3	13

Primary Language of Respondents

Primary Language	respondents	City 2018	Frequency
	percentage	percentage	
American Sign	.5	n/avail	3
English	96	n/avail	137
Hopi	0	n/avail	0
Navajo	.5	n/avail	2
Spanish	1	n/avail	5

Living Situation of Respondents

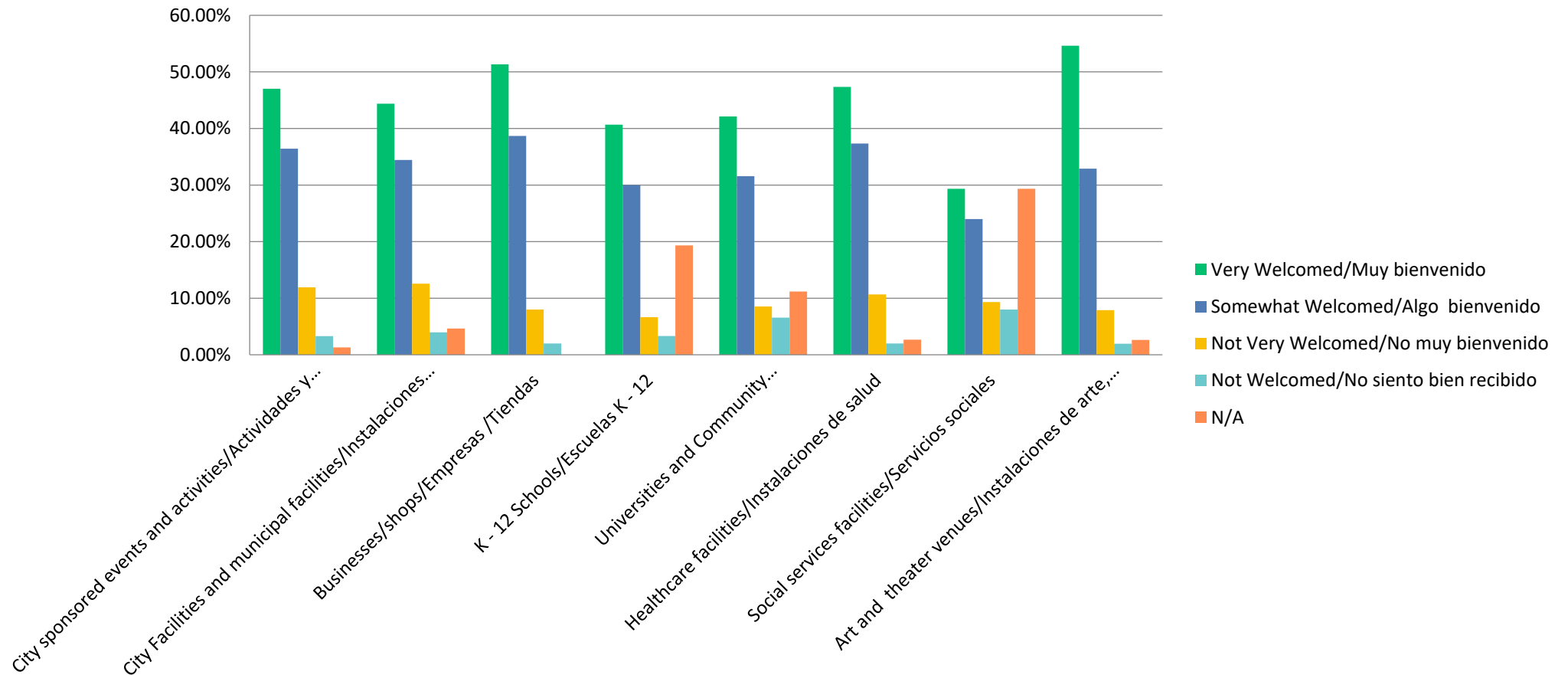
Living situation	respondents	City 2018	Frequency
	percentage	percentage	
Own home	50	77	71
Rent home	37	19	52
Live with family	10	n/avail	14
Temporary with family/friends	.7	n/avail	1

Length of Residence in Flagstaff

Years residing in Flagstaff	respondents	City 2018	Frequency
	percentage	percentage	
1-4 years	20	n/avail	29
5-9 years	10	n/avail	15
10-14 years	15	n/avail	21
15-19 years	11	n/avail	16
20+ years	44	n/avail	62

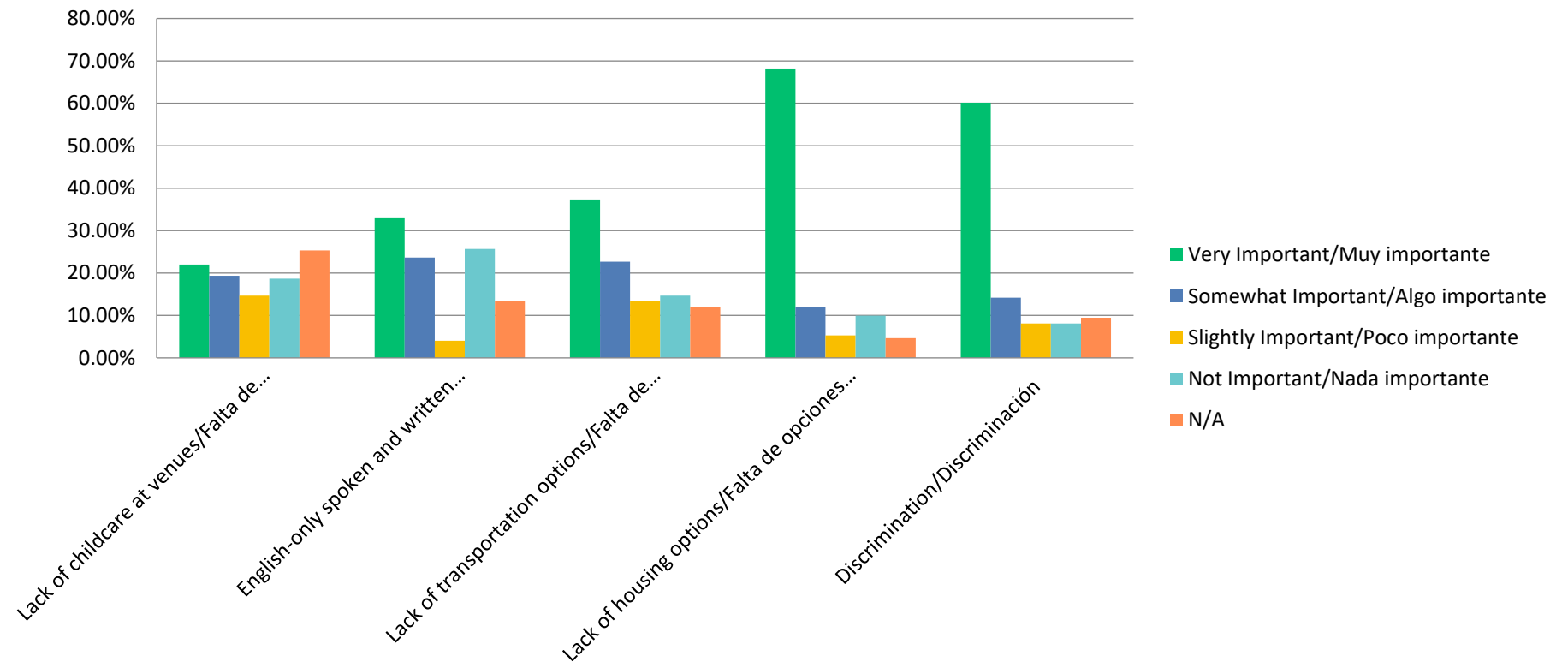
How welcome do you feel in Flagstaff?

How welcome do you feel at/¿Cómo se ha sentido usted en...?:



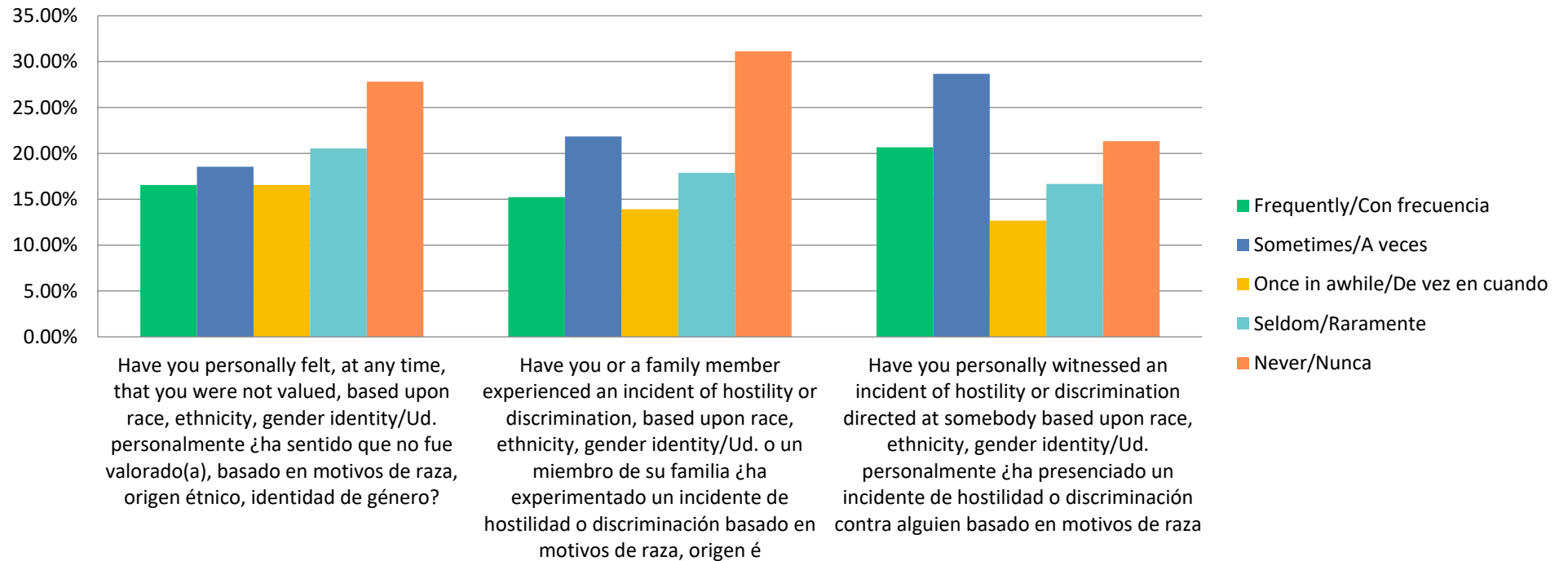
Barriers to a welcoming climate in Flagstaff

Rate specific barriers to a welcoming climate you are aware of/Según su conocimiento, indique las barreras específicas a un ambiente hospitalario:



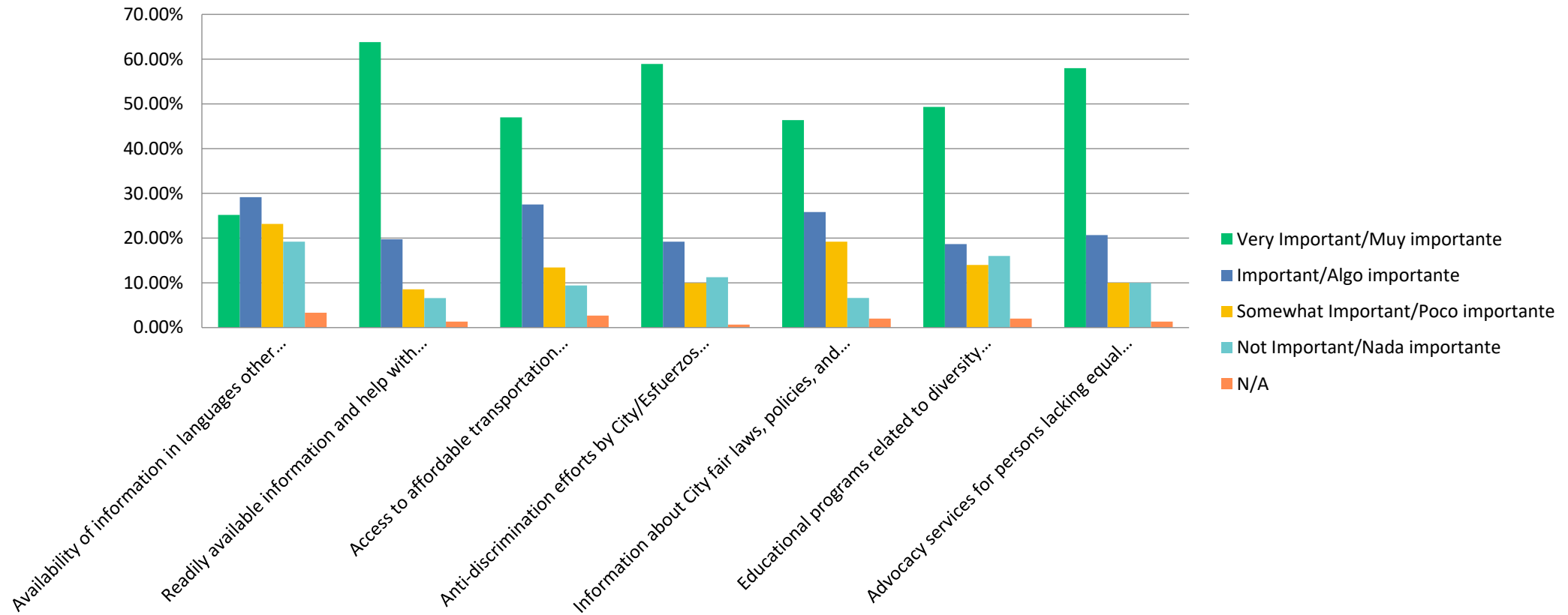
Feelings, Experiences, or Things Witnessed

The following questions refer to your feelings, experiences, or things you have witnessed in Flagstaff/Las siguientes preguntas se refieren a los sentimientos, experiencias o incidentes que Ud. haya presenciado en Flagstaff:



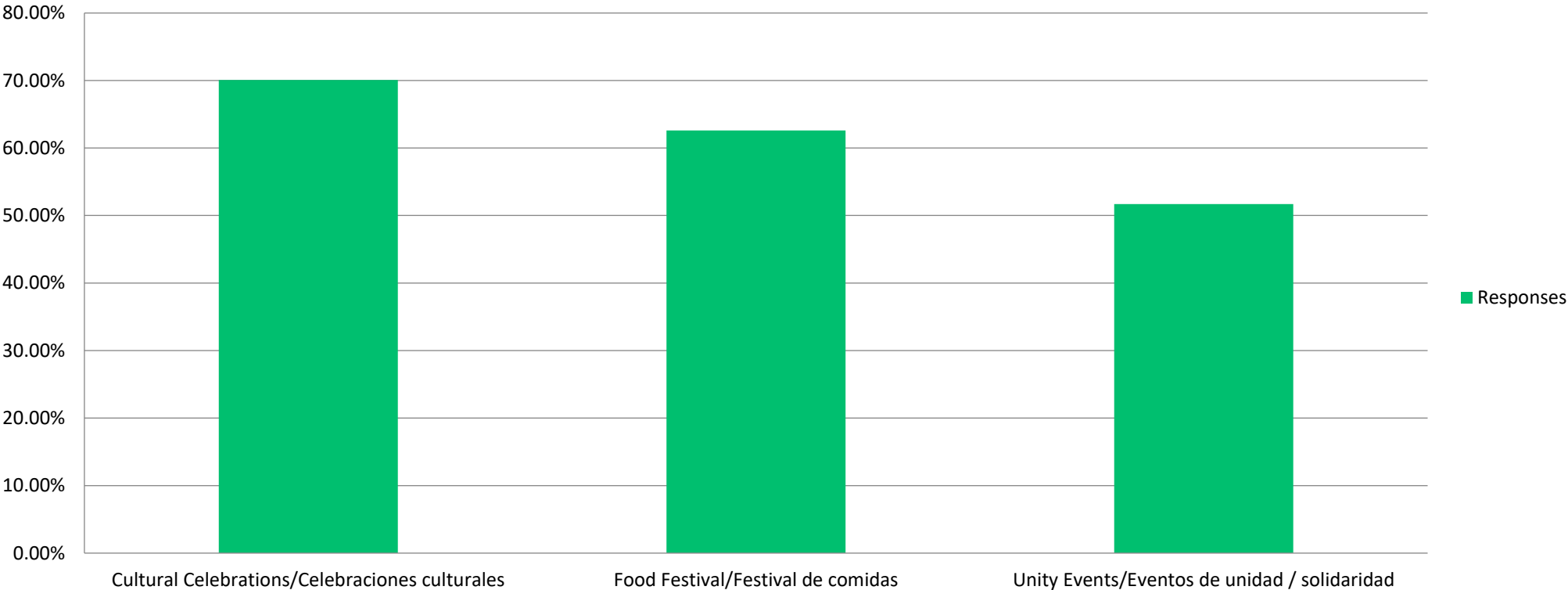
Important issues for CODA

What are the most important issues for the Commission on Diversity Awareness to focus upon?1. ¿Cuáles son los temas más importantes en que debería concentrarse la comisión para la concienciación de diversidad?



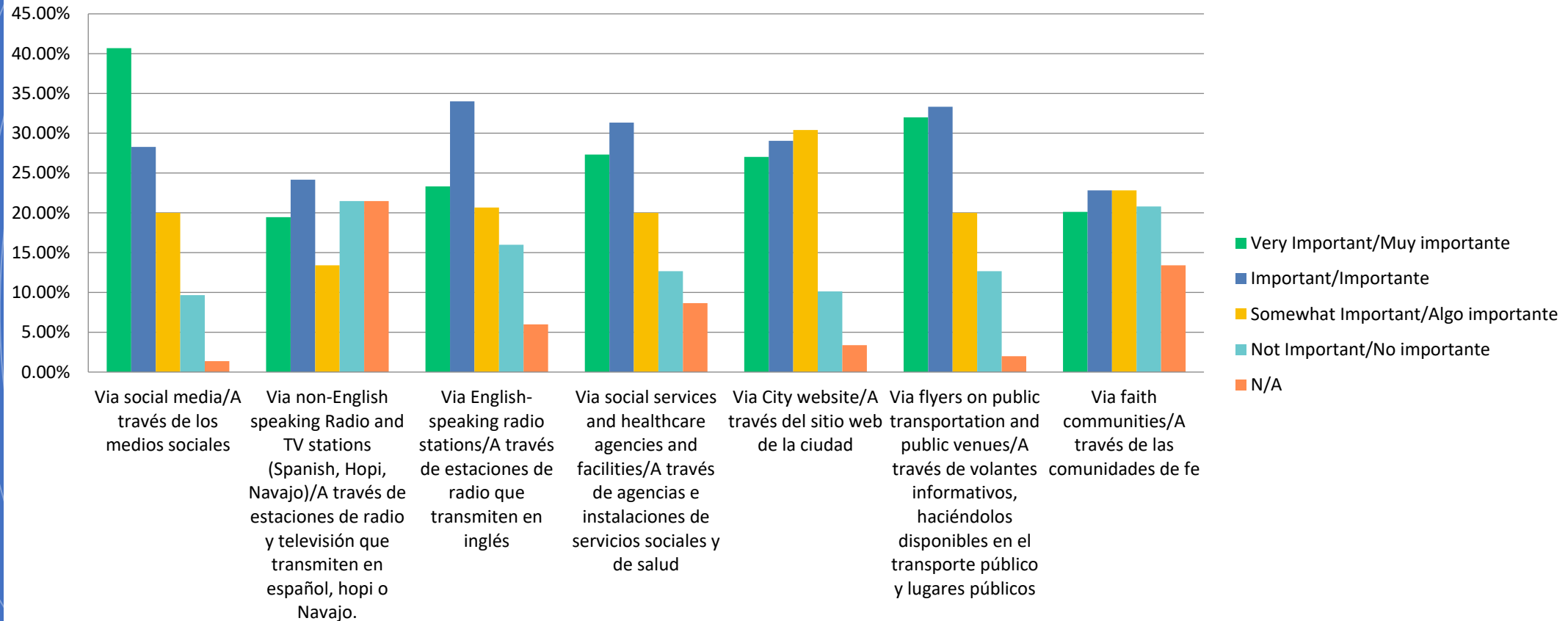
Activities to Encourage Cultural Exchange

What activities could the City of Flagstaff offer to encourage and enhance a cultural exchange?/1. ¿Cuáles actividades podría la Ciudad de Flagstaff ofrecer para alentar y fortalecer un intercambio cultural?



How could the City best communicate with you?

How could the City best communicate with you?/¿Cómo podría la ciudad mejor comunicarse con usted?



Qualitative Findings

- Thematic analysis was conducted by two coders and compared for confirmation and trustworthiness
- The themes drawn from the analysis of qualitative questions and supplemental, clarifying answers to survey questions are arranged into three categories, divided into strengths and challenges:
 - structural concerns
 - attitudes
 - concerns about behaviors



Structural Concerns

Strengths

- Generally welcoming environment



Structural Concerns

Challenges and Barriers

- Housing; specifically, the limited availability of affordable or low-income housing
- Wealth diversity
- Challenging employment market
- Expensive healthcare



Attitudes

Strengths

- People are generally friendly
- Free or low-cost activities available
- Many officials in Flagstaff encourage, defend, and respect diversity

Attitudes

Challenges and Barriers

- Racism, including profiling by police and business owners
- Mixed attitudes about sexual orientation/gender identity: “heterosexism” vs. “too many gays here”
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Political tensions, including “town and gown” tension between the city and NAU



Concerns About Behaviors

Strengths

- Diversity of low cost or free activities
- Diversity awareness of City officials and the generally useful methods of communication provided by the city
- Helpful actions of healthcare providers



Concerns About Behaviors

Challenges and Barriers

- Racially motivated surveillance by law enforcement and local businesses
- Microaggressions

Discussion of input for City Council

- Discussion of findings
 - Housing is cited as the primary barrier to diversity
 - Racism is prominent
 - There are notable failures to full accessibility
 - There are experiences of heterosexism and homophobia noted
 - These findings are embedded in a context of increasing wealth disparities
- Limitation of unavailability of cross-tab analysis

Housing

- The expense of housing and the types of housing available are barriers to diversity
 - Rapid increase in student housing rather than for potential families
 - Median and mean housing costs are significantly higher than the national median and mean (the new Housing Commission has produced an excellent infographic on this)
 - Relationship to public transportation routes in all city regions was noted

Racism

- Respondents noted prominence of racism that fell into the three dimensions noted by Ms. Wegwert:
 - Structural factors
 - Overt behaviors
 - Subtle microaggressions
- These data were limited by our inability to perform cross-tab analysis that could have provided insight into the relationship between demographic profiles and responses

Accessibility

- Qualitative comments identified lacking in
 - Certain City facilities
 - Educational services
 - Employment
 - Consistent interpretation services
 - Downtown parking, especially critical during inclement weather

Heterosexism/ homophobia

- Heterosexism and homophobia
 - Moving PRIDE to Thorpe Park even as other festivals remained in Wheeler Park created a perception of discriminatory treatment
 - Stares and “cat calls” when in public with partner/spouse
 - The PRIDE flag flown in front of City Hall in PRIDE month of June is deeply appreciated



Embedded in context of wealth disparities

- There was a sense that the increasing disparity in wealth creates further distancing among diverse groups of people
- The sense was that this “Aspen” economy is not sustainable for our Flagstaff community or for a vibrantly diverse culture city-wide
- Health care was noted within the context of wealth disparities and availability of services

Discussion of guidance for Commission

- We will now discuss of how these data will guide our work on the Commission for Diversity Awareness
 - Creates an agenda for the Commission to carry forward
 - Provides impetus to explore racism with a focus on reduction in structural components that can be addressed through policy
 - Possibly establish liaison with FPD Citizens Liaison Committee and the Downtown Business Alliance
 - Be available to be at the table with other commissions and departments and work with Legal Department as necessary

Recommendations

- In two types – 1) from survey respondents and 2) from Commission authors/researchers
- We encourage Council to keep these insights in mind and infuse in all areas/policies



Respondents' recommendations

- Must address equitable housing first
- Must acknowledge the reality of racism and other oppressions
- Should sponsor more forums such as the Indigenous Circle or other forums that allow for direct communication with City Council



Researcher/ Commissioner recommendations

- Modeling matters – many positive actions by Council
- Deep and urgent need for dialog about diversity and equality and equity
- Prioritize accessibility design
- Further research along the lines of the December 2013 Citizens Survey
- Implement an explicit inclusion policy statement that can be infused into City policy-making
- Consciousness-shifting

Finally . . .

- **Thank you** for the opportunity to share!
- Questions?





Commission on Diversity Awareness

7. C.

From: Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst

DATE: 06/15/2021

SUBJECT: **Proclamations Work Group Update**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss any upcoming Proclamations for the Work Group to focus on.

Executive Summary:

Proclamations are made by the Mayor of Flagstaff. The Commission on Diversity Awareness is drafting proclamations to suggest to the Mayor to further promote diversity in the City of Flagstaff.



Commission on Diversity Awareness

7. D. 1.

From: Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst

DATE: 06/15/2021

SUBJECT: **Beautification and Public Arts Commission**

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Informational item.

Executive Summary:

Commissioner Cruz from the Beautification and Public Arts Commission will speak to the Commission on Diversity Awareness. The BPAC Commissioners are partnering with other commissions to ensure communication and awareness in our community is shared more easily. Commissioner Cruz has agreed to share any pertinent information from the Beautification and Public Arts Commission as well as report back with topics that may intersect.



Commission on Diversity Awareness

7. D. 2.

From: Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst

DATE: 06/15/2021

SUBJECT: NAU Diversity Commission Report

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review and discuss any reports or updates from Dr. Gabe Montano or Commissioner Pino.

Executive Summary:



Commission on Diversity Awareness

7. D. 3.

From: Jessica Foos, Human Resources Analyst

DATE: 06/15/2021

SUBJECT: Flagstaff High School Students Advocate for Renaming the Peaks

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss the presentation from the Flagstaff High School Native American Club and any follow up action items.

Executive Summary:

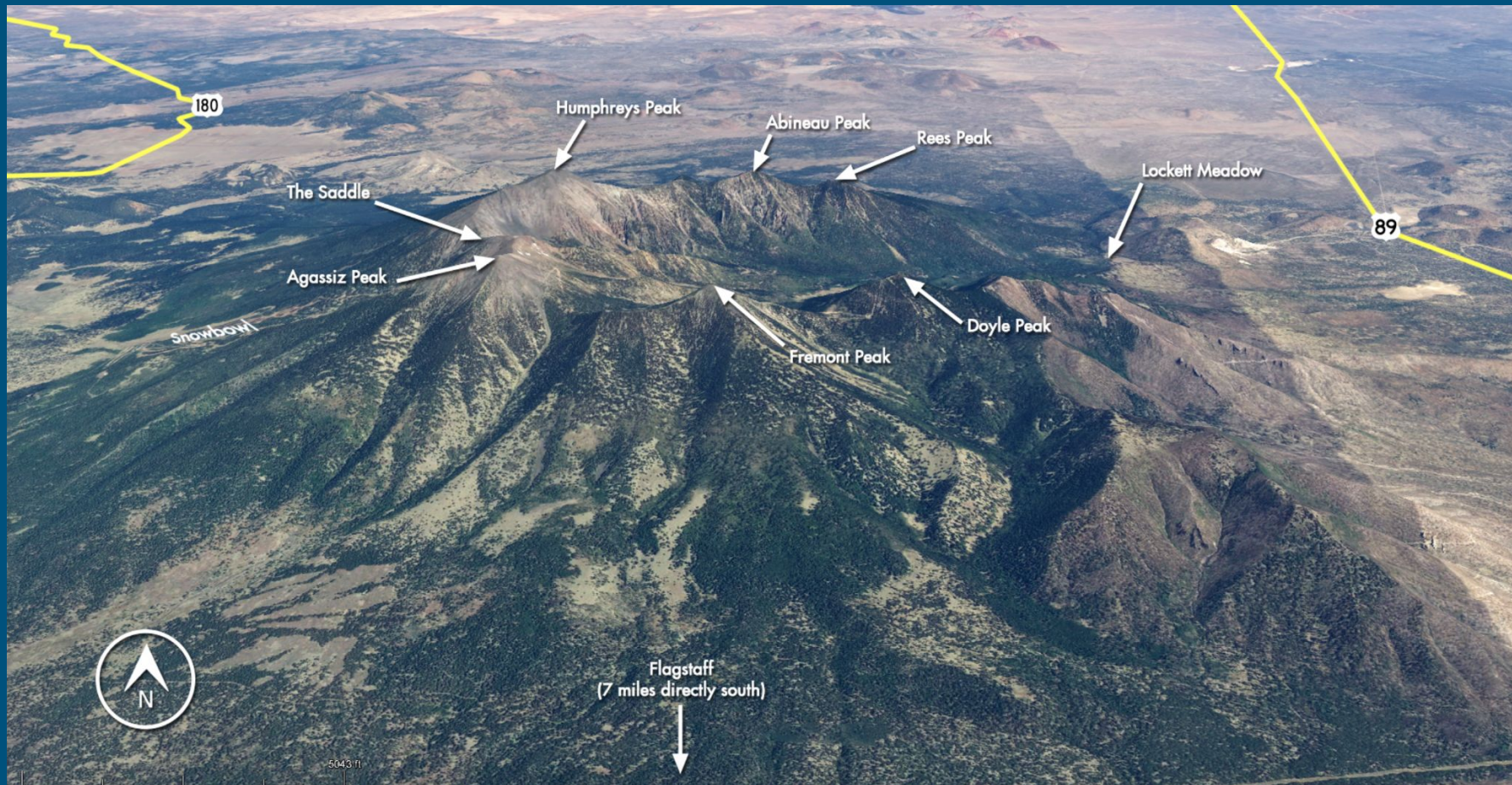
Attachments

Agassiz Peak presentation



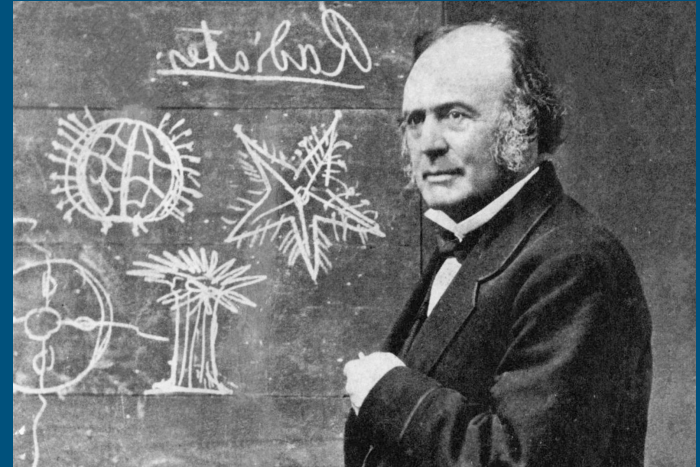
Renaming Agassiz Peak

By: Indigenous Youth Leaders



History of Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz

- Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz was a Swiss- born American biologist/ geologist.
- Agassiz was also an opponent of miscegenation. At a lecture at the Charleston Literary Club in South Carolina in 1847, **Agassiz announced that blacks constituted a separate species**. In a letter to American abolitionist Samuel Gridley Howe in 1863, **Agassiz stated that sexual relations between blacks and whites were “immoral” and “destructive to the social equality.”**
- Agassiz peak, is named after a biologist who used his studies to legitimize racist beliefs of white superiority. So, keeping the name the same deeply affects the indigenous as the meanings behind each of their names are important to us. This also creates a culture of racism colonization that should be deemed unacceptable.

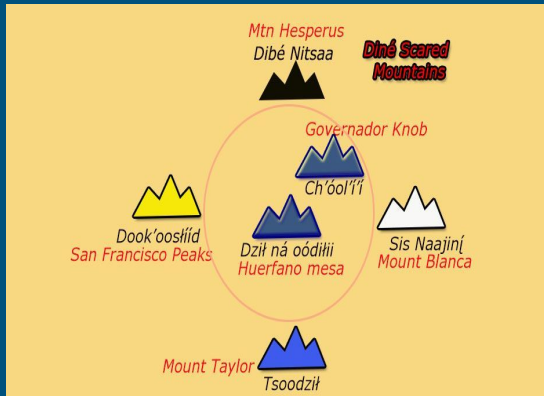


Why is this is an important issue to indigenous people?

- The peaks is considered sacred to 13 indigenous nations which sadly, some have been pushed out of Arizona. **13 Tribal Nations which include; Pueblo, Mohave, Havasupai, Yavapai, Hualapai, Navajo, Hopi, Apache, Zuni, Salt, Gila, Paiute, and Ute**
- The peaks still remain sacred and holy to many Indigenous nations therefore, the **current names of the peaks is viewed as inappropriate and misrepresenting.**

Cultural significance to local Native tribes

The peaks are associated with 13 indigenous nations. The Peaks is associated with spiritual deities, ancestors, emergence, ceremonies, climate conduit, and is still integral to indigenous daily practices.



Native names for Agassiz Peak

- Dook'o'oosłíd (Navajo) (Abalone Shell Mountain) (The Mountain that reflects)
- Pavoyoykyasi (rain tablet) Nuva'tukya'ovi —(Hopi)
- Dził Tso—Dilzhe'e—(Apache) (Big Mountain)
- Tsii Bina—Aa'ku—(Acoma)
- Nuvaxatuh—Nuwuvi—(Southern Paiute)
- Hvehasahpatch or Huassapatch—Havasu 'Baaja—(Havasupai)
- Wik'hanbaja—Hwal'bay—(Hualapai)
- Wi:mun Kwa—(Yavapai)
- Sunha K'hbchu Yalanne—A:shiwi (Zuni)
- 'Amat 'Tikwe Nyava—Hamakhav—(Mojave)
- Sierra sin Agua—(Spanish) (The mountain without water)

Quotes from Native Elders

- “Dook’oosliid has been a part of our sacred circle of life since the beginning of life for the Diné people. We as Diné utilize sacred plants, water, & minerals from this sacred mountain. Our medicine men go to the mountains to gather ceremony bundles & give offerings to the Diyin Dine’e & give their offerings/ thanks for protectings us. The mountain have the power to cure our ailments. That’s why the mountain are sacred to us. We must not abuse the mountains”- **Navajo Elder**
- “[The peaks are one of the] sacred places where the earth brushes up against the unseen world,” said **Yavapai-Apache Chairman Vincent Randall**.
- “To us Hopis, the Peaks is a sacred home and resting place for our spiritual beings, kachina spirits. The kachina spirits serve as guides to the Hopi people.” - **Hopi Elder**

Press Release

Local news. The truth matters.

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Earth Notes: Flagstaff To Rename Street Linked To Racist History

By RYAN HEINSIUS · NOV 18, 2020

PROGRAM
Earth Notes

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There's a movement in Flagstaff to change the name of a downtown street with a controversial moniker. City officials are considering several community proposals to rethink Agassiz St. It was named after Louis Agassiz, an influential 19th century biologist and Harvard professor. But his legacy is one of racism.



File photo: Swiss-American biologist, Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz, 1807-1873
CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES

[Listen](#)
2:30

Louis Agassiz loomed large in the world of natural sciences in the 1800's. He


Press Release continued..

Daily Sun | Flagstaff High School students advocate for renaming the Peaks | ALERT | TOP STORY | SHARE THIS | 37 comments

Flagstaff High School students advocate for renaming the Peaks

Katlin Olson | Apr 14, 2020 | Updated Sep 24, 2020 | 37

\$1* for 6 mos | EDITOR'S SPECIAL 3.0



Members of Flagstaff High School's Native American Club stand with Flagstaff City Councilmember Jamie Whelan, right, in this March photo. The students are seeking support from local jurisdictions in renaming the San Francisco Peaks to better represent their indigenous history.

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Early last month, rather than being distracted by their upcoming spring break, a group of Flagstaff High School students decided to add a higher issue to their list of spring semester to-dos: advocating for the renaming of the San Francisco Peaks.

In a press conference March 11, representatives from Flag High's Native American Club explained these mountains have long been sacred to 13 tribal nations, so names like Agassiz Peak, in particular, are out-of-line.

Although Louis Agassiz was recognized for his

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Personal Statements from Students

We will be hearing from the following students:

Mashayla Tso, Makaius Marks, Danell Lipscomb, etc.

Closing Statement

Agassiz's science was used to try to legitimize racist beliefs of white racial superiority. Therefore, naming a peak after him is not appropriate and antagonizes the beliefs and acknowledgments of the indigenous nations and other communities of color. **This creates a culture of Racism and colonization that we deem as unacceptable.**

- **Keeping the name, Agassiz Peak, deeply affects Indigenous people as the cultural names of the peaks describe the spiritual healing and power that the mountain withholds.. This also creates a culture of racism and colonization that should be deemed unacceptable.**



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