

Diversity Roundtable
Achieving a Culture that Values Diversity
Greater Lafayette Commerce
Thursday, April 2, 2026
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
The Arts Federation (TAF) and Zoom

Minutes

Impacting Change in Issues of Diversity and Inclusion

DiversityTippecanoe.org

1. Welcome/Introductions – Barb Clark, Amy Sundell, Mikel Berger, Tetia Lee, Adelia Sorge, Kirsten Mueller, Jeremy Lemus, Carol Clark Elliott, Bob Downing, Iseral Quintero, Linda Swihart, Naj McFadden, Joan Marshall, Joanna Wu, Sheryl Singleton, AR Lane, Sana Booker, Judy Gainey, Tom Topping, Christopher Munt, Sara Atkins, Don Scheiber, and Mary Maxine Brown were present.

2. Program – Update on GLC, Mikel Berger, President and CEO, and Jeremy Lemus, Manager of Latino Business Initiatives. Amy Sundell introduced Mikel as the new CEO of Greater Lafayette Commerce. GLC is a non-profit that was formed several years ago through the consolidation of 6 organizations under the GLC umbrella. The intent of this was to increase efficiency. Help the business community succeed: serving the role as a government adjacent entity and being a bridge to the local government to community. They also assist other non-profits and schools in the role as convener. Most of the work of GLC is done behind the scenes.
 - Governed by a 25-member board of directors
 - READI: Greater Lafayette READI Region
 - o 150% faster than the previous decade
 - o 1,934/year by 2034
 - o Workforce
 - o Housing
 - o Childcare

 - Jeremy introduced himself. He currently resides in Crawfordsville, Montgomery County. Originally from Long Beach, CA, he moved to Indiana about 6 years ago. He has been active with MatchBox Co-working space and is a business owner (Bilingual Services).
 - o Latino Business Expo is scheduled to take place on April 24, 3-7pm.
 - Additional Events and points of engagement:

- Job Fair: HireME, April 29 at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds is open to both high school and public.
- GLC Connectors: April 21, 10:00 First Farmers
- Small Business of the Month, last Wednesday of the month at Ripple and Company
- Rise and Shine, First Friday of each month, 7:30 am – 8:30 am at River City Community Center

3. Hot Topics – if time available Barb Clark

- a. Change in format
- b. Submission of questions is encouraged
- c. Today's questions: Now that the Legislative Session has concluded for 2026, how do you feel about these bills?

Indiana Senate Bill 285 (SB 285), often referred to as the "Housing Matters" bill, is a controversial piece of legislation aims at prohibiting unauthorized camping, sleeping, or long-term shelter on public property.

Key details regarding the bill in the 2026 session include:

- **Criminalization of Homelessness:** The bill makes it a **Class C misdemeanor** for individuals to camp, sleep, or establish long-term, unauthorized shelter on state or local public property.
- **Process:** After a warning, individuals sleeping outside could be charged, leading to potential fines, tickets, or up to 60 days in jail.
- **Prohibition on Local Policies:** The bill prevents local governments from adopting or enforcing policies that prohibit the enforcement of public camping bans.
- **Civil Action:** It authorizes the Attorney General, as well as residents or business owners, to bring civil action against political subdivisions that fail to enforce these prohibitions.
- **Effective Date:** This provisions passed and is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2026.

4. Announcements – Barb Clark (5 min)

- a. TAF Craft Beer Festival – April 18th at Tippecanoe County Parking Garage, 201 Columbia St.
- b. GLIBE Corporate Luncheon – April 21st 11 am, at Courtyard by Marriott.
- c. April 3rd – VOTE411.org will go live for the primary election
- d. April 6th – last day to register to vote for primary election
- e. April 7th – first day of early voting for primary election

5. Future Topics – Barb Clark (5 minutes)

- a. May 7 - Brainstorming of new topics (Barb Clark)
- b. June 4 – HIV Pathways, Nathan McBurnett (Christopher Munt)
- c. July 2 – Social Service and Outreach Teams from Law Enforcement agencies in Lafayette, W. Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County. Devon Moore, MSW, LCSW, Social Service & Crisis Response Specialist will coordinate. (Sheila Rosenthal). Sana Booker will facilitate.