

On day one: Mayor and majority of city council side with equity

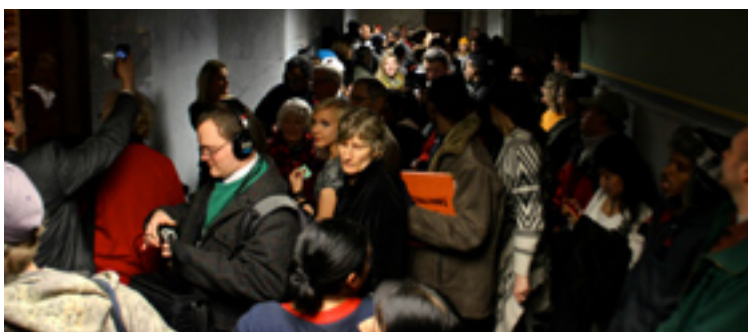
Written by

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One hundred and fifty community members braved a record cold snap to demand the new Minneapolis City Council prioritize closing Minneapolis' worst-in-the-nation racial equity gaps as they begin their new terms.

By a 7 – 6 majority, the council supported a motion to allow community members impacted by the gaps to testify for 15 minutes before the council, however they did not meet the two-thirds threshold necessary to suspend the rules. At the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony for the new council, hundreds kicked off a rally for equity by singing "We Shall Not Be Moved" on the stairs of the rotunda as newly inaugurated Mayor Betsy Hodges sang along.



The group then marched to the council chambers, where they hoped to open the council's first meeting of the year. Newly-elected 9th ward council member, Alondra Cano, introduced a motion to allow for 15 minutes of public testimony, which was met with loud cheers and chants of "let the people speak" from community members gathered outside the chambers.

"We're disappointed that directly impacted community members weren't given the opportunity to speak today. But the fact that a majority of council members voted in favor of the motion gives us hope that with enough pressure we can bring about a new direction for a new Minneapolis," said Anthony Newby, executive director of Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC). "Our communities can't wait any longer for the city to take these worst-in-the-nation racial equity gaps seriously. We need a racial equity agenda for the new term, and we need it to start today."

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