

City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall 400 La Crosse Street La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Agenda

Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 5:15 PM Eagle Room

This meeting is also being held virtually. E-mail kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org if you have trouble logging in.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/88525522441?pwd=cUh5OG41d1pydTNtZWV1VS95b0FSdz09

Meeting ID: 885 2552 2441 Passcode: 330906

Join by phone +1 (646) 931-3860

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Items:

1	23-0265	March Updates from Racial Equity Team, REACH, and Homelessness Coordinator
2	<u>23-0215</u>	Request to sponsor 2023 Juneteenth celebration
		<u>Attachments:</u> 2023 Juneteenth Partner Letter (Online Version)
3	22-0343	Strategic Planning
		Attachments: Draft Actions (March 2023)
		Draft Goals (Nov 2022)
		Draft Vision, Mission, and Core Values (Sep 2022)
		Strategic Planning Workshop Results (Jul 2016)
4	<u>22-1024</u>	Discussion on housing as a human right.
		Attachments: The Right to Adequate Housing - Training Module
		What Does the 'Human Right to Adequate Housing' Mean?
		Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration

Toronto Housing Charter - Opportunity for All

City of Madison - Housing as a Human Right Resolution Draft

Adjournment

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall 400 La Crosse Street La Crosse, WI 54601

Text File

File Number: 23-0265

Agenda Date: 3/8/2023 Version: 1 Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Human Rights Commission File Type: Status Update

Agenda Number: 1



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall 400 La Crosse Street La Crosse, WI 54601

Text File

File Number: 23-0215

Agenda Date: 3/8/2023 Version: 1 Status: Approved

In Control: Human Rights Commission File Type: General Item

Agenda Number: 2



Juneteenth/August Ball

The planning is underway for the 2023 annual *La Crosse Juneteenth Celebration* (Sunday, June 18, Riverside Park) and its associated *August Ball* (Saturday, August 5th, UWL Student Union). We invite you to partner with the events' hosts, Hope Restores https://hoperestoreswi.org/, Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.) https://www.blacklax.org/, Enduring Families Project Enduring Families Project and Black Student Leaders.

History

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. This Holiday Commemorates June 19, 1865 when the last of enslaved people heard they were free. It is a US Federal Holiday.

The August Ball commemorates the August 1, 1887 Emancipation Day celebrating the liberation of enslaved people, first in the Caribbean, and then eventually the end of slavery in this country. This Ball was also celebrated in 1887 by the La Crosse Community.

Partner Opportunities

Your partnership would help provide entertainment, food, speakers, historical education, community building, and family friendly and youth activities.

Your partnership can be (1) monetary, (2) an in-kind donation, (3) hosting a table at the event, and/or (4) recruiting volunteers for the event.

To partner with us, use this link JUNETEENTH PARTNERING or QR code.



Monetary Donations

Checks should be made payable to Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K) with "Juneteenth Celebration" in the memo line and mailed to Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge, P.O. Box 694, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54602.

To donate online, use this link Juneteenth Monetary Donations or QR code.



Thanking Partners: Because your donations benefit this region and beyond, we would like to say thank you:

- Donations \$50-\$499—receive free event tabling at the Juneteenth event
- Donations \$500 and more—receive free event tabling at the Juneteenth event and your organization's name on the event t-shirt
- In-kind donations—recognized on social media

THANK YOU for your consideration and we look forward to your support of this important historic community event! Feel free to contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

Shamawyah Curtis, Hope Restores

Shaundel Spivey, B.L.A.C.K.

Denise Christy Moss, Enduring Families Project

Chaya Davis, Black Student Leaders

Contact Information: laxjuneteenth@gmail.com or 608-881-6418.

Contributions are tax deductible. The IRS determination letter and W-9s are available upon request.



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall 400 La Crosse Street La Crosse, WI 54601

Text File

File Number: 22-0343

Agenda Date: 6/8/2022 Version: 1 Status: Referred with Direction

In Control: Human Rights Commission File Type: General Item

Agenda Number: 3

Overarching Goal 1: Gather statistics on police contact proportionate to demographics			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Overarching Goal 2: Improve quality of and options for affordable housing			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Overarching Goal 3: Work toward having municipal employee demographics proportionateto those of the residents			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Overarching Goal 4: Provide quick access to legal and housing resources			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Community Building Goal 1: Work toward multiple meaningful after school, weekend, and summer programming for youth	d		
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Community Building Goal 2: Ensure homeless individuals & families are treated with digniand respect	ity		
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Improve and make emergency shelter available for anyone in need			4
2. Expand quality case management services for homeless and formerly homeless individuals and families 3. Expand language access and bilingual information and services to LEP populations 4. Protect the use of service animals			6 9 15
Community Buidling Goal 3: Speed up and improve efforts to ensure homeless individuals families find permanent housing	s &		
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority

Complete a 5-year strategic plan to end homelessness			1
2. Create a permanent community development subcommittee focused on ending homelessness			2
3. Improve accountability and effectiveness of Federal and State funding targeting homelessness			5
4. Employ a city grant writer			7
			•
Community Building Goal 4: Celebrate diversity in La Crosse			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Housing and Economic Development Goal 1: Make La Crosse's neighborhoods vibrant	t and		
diverse			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Housing and Economic Dovalonment Goal 2: Ensure there is quality affordable housi	in a		
Housing and Economic Development Goal 2: Ensure there is quality, affordable housi available to residents	ng		
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
1. Enforce landlord registration	r arther(3)	Term	8
4. Enforce fair housing and local housing laws			10
2. Develop and implement a security deposit loan program, landlord mitigation program, and landlord in	ncentive		
program			12
3. Protect tenants from irrelevant, unreliable and dated credit history			13
Housing and Economic Development Goal 3: Residents are able to earn a living wage			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Housing and Economic Development Goal 4: Subsidized housing is available for those	that		
are homeless and transitioning			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
1. Pursue innovative permanent and transitional low-income housing and supported housing options			3
2. Hire a housing operations ombudsman			11

3. Encourage/direct the housing authority to apply for additional Section 8 HCV funding as it becomes available			13a
4. Encourage/direct the housing authority to set aside up to 10% of all recycled HCVs for households transitioning out of homelessness or graduation from supported housing programs			13b
Housing and Economic Development Goal 5: Help and advocate for residents with evictions			
or who can't pass background checks			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Housing and Economic Development Goal 6: Improve Housing Authority policies			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Public Health and Safety Goal 1: Increase the mental health services in La Crosse so people can get help quickly			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Public Health and Safety Goal 2: Work towards having all healthcare providers use same intake system			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Public Health and Safety Goal 3: Increase options for drug and alcohol addiction treatment			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority
Public Health and Safety Goal 4: Increase walkability of streets and safety			
Recommended Action	Partner(s)	Term	Priority

Draft Goals

Moved from Core Values or Shared in Meetings

- Provide quick access to legal and housing resources
- Help and advocate for residents with evictions or who can't pass background checks
- Improve Housing Authority policies

From 2016 Strategic Planning Workshop

Overarching Goals

- Gather statistics on police contact proportionate to demographics
- Work to ensure housing quality is better in La Crosse with affordable and adequate options
- Work toward having employee demographics of City/County proportionately match those of the residents

Community Building Goals

- Work toward multiple meaningful after school, weekend, and summer programming for youth
- Ensure homeless individuals and families are treated with dignity and respect and efforts are made to make sure they are put into permanent housing quickly
- Celebrate diversity in La Crosse

Housing and Economic Development Goals

- Make La Crosse's neighborhoods vibrant and diverse
- Ensure there is quality, affordable housing available to residents
- Residents are able to earn a living wage
- Subsidized housing is available for those that are homeless and transitioning

Public Health and Safety Goals

- Increase the mental health services in La Crosse so people can get help quickly
- Work towards having all providers in La Crosse County use same intake system to enter information on client
- Increase options for drug and alcohol addiction treatment
- Increase walkability of streets and safety

Draft Vision & Mission Statements

Vision

To be a trusted resource for resolving discrimination in the community.

Mission

To be a forum for reviewing discriminatory complaints; providing tenant/landlord resources; and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the community.

Core Values

- Providing quick access to legal and housing resources
- Creating a clear complaint process with a quick response
- Continuing engagement with the community to identify their needs
- Collaborating with other agencies
- Being a positive presence in support of other anti-discrimination organizations
- Having trust in a fair hearing
- Housing as a human right
- Working for the dignity and safety of the La Crosse community by promoting
- diversity, equity and inclusion considering social, economic and environmental factors
- Providing an impartial forum to educate about, monitor for, and implement fair practices.
- Equity and justice
- Having open minds with critical thinking

Human Rights Commission

Strategic Planning Workshop Results July 2016



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Participants and Process

Human Rights Commission Members:

Fabio Burgos Elizabeth Digby-Brittan Jai Johnson Ashley Lacenski James Parker Shaundel Spivey Will Van Roosenbeek

Community Member:

Jason Larsen

Facilitated by:

Jason Gilman, City of La Crosse Director of Planning and Development

Process:

At the July 27th special meeting of the Human Rights Commission (HRC), Jason Gilman held a planning workshop for those in attendance. The workshop was held in effort to assist the commission in determining goals and the direction of the group's future actions. In order to do this, the participants were asked to write down their top suggestions for the vision and mission of the commission as well as goals and concerns for each of the following categories: overarching policy, community building and social capital, housing and economic development, public health, safety, and welfare. The participants then voted on the top priorities from each of the categories. The top goals and concerns as voted on by participants are included in this report.

The commission will meet again to brainstorm action items as well as plan for implementation. Staff suggestions for possible goals and action items are included in italics in each section.

Vision

Listed are the vision suggestions verbatim as received on the index cards: Please choose your top three priorities.

- "Stronger community through a celebration of our various cultures, ethnicities, racial make up, etc. in order to meaningfully reduce discrimination based on race, gender, etc."
- "A community that is inclusive + just with employment reflecting the population. Welcoming + treating justly all members + citizens of the community with a metropolitan collaborative approach to education, housing, employment + public safety"
- "Equal access to all resources, proportionate police contact, equal representation and a better balance in our communities and schools"
- "Long Term: An open + welcoming community for minorities, people of color, those w/diverse backgrounds + experiences. People will want to come here. Short Term: Ensuring practices are in place to promote diverse workforces + public organizations. Hiring practices should promote diversity."
- "A city where people of all races, groups feel welcomed and want to live. Based on both equal access to jobs and housing and a feeling that city/county government is committed to promoting social and economic diversity: meaning for policing and specific economic outreach."
- "Women and non-white males broadly represented in Professional fields, positions of leadership and influence, a cultural presence. An absence of the overall negativity that has characterized La Crosse for decades (WIZM, nasty bloggers, etc.) In a word, civility! A more educated, enlightened, economically comfortable populace."
- "In a place where we truly embrace & appreciate the differences of all people. So much so that we help place different people in high positions, the work force is as equally representative of the community. Everything we offer in this community will be presentative & show appreciation for all- utopia of acceptance."
- "A place where housing (safe/kept up/affordable) was available for everyone. Many diverse programs to help people with addiction, depression, homelessness, mental or physical disabilities, etc.... These programs would all be connected hospitals/clinics/city/county providing the best care. Diversity would be integrated in all neighborhoods. We would invest in our youth, making our city sustainable and welcoming. Our festivals would be focused on our diversity & to celebrate one another. We would listen to one another."

Overarching - General Public Relations/Policy Influence

Voted as top priorities:

- Disproportionate minority contact with police adults and youth
- Lack of mobility for people of color
- Adequate Housing landlords often do not keep up their properties so people live in unsafe/bad homes or no middle cost housing (either student (slum) or high end)
- Employment impartial (not preferential) application of affirmative efforts to match hiring and employment in City/County to existing demographics percentages of available and qualified candidates (race/sex/ability/orientation)

Possible Goal: Statistics will show police contact is proportionate to demographics

Possible Action Item: Diversify police force Possible Action Item: Increase diversity training

Possible Goal: Work to ensure housing quality is better in La Crosse with affordable and adequate options

Possible Action Item: Encourage those to report housing breaking code to the Inspections Department

Possible Action Item: Talk with landlords and builders about building quality affordable housing

Possible Action Item: Encourage programs that provide affordable housing to low and moderate income residents

Possible Goal: Employee demographics of City/County will match those of the residents

Possible Action Item: Encourage employers to use practices such as removing all information that may give insight into people's

race/sex/ability/orientation, etc. while doing initial reviews of applications to avoid explicit or implicit biases

Possible Action Item: Ensure recruitment efforts are being made to diverse populations

Community Building and Social Capital

Voted as top priorities:

- Need for more youth programming that provides leadership
- Treatment of Homeless need for permanent housing and to be seen as human beings
- Stratification of social groups
- Failure to promote current diversity of the city as a plus

Possible Goal: There are multiple meaningful after school, weekend, and summer programming for youth Possible Action: Encourage and support organizations in creating these programs

Possible Goal: Homeless individuals and families are treated with dignity and respect and efforts are made to make sure they are put into permanent housing quickly

Possible Action: Support groups working to fight homelessness

Possible Action: Provide trainings on compassion towards those that are homeless

Possible Action: Support projects and programs creating transitional and supportive housing for those that are homeless

Possible Goal: Diversity is celebrated in La Crosse

Possible Action: Hold free community events celebrating diversity

Possible Action: Release editorials or letters to the editor highlighting diversity?

Housing and Economic Development

Voted as top priorities

- Low income housing is often in certain neighborhoods, so people avoid those. Those neighborhoods are where many people of color live (segregated)
- Lack of affordable housing for all not many options. Can be difficult to gain if they had been evicted.
- Hard to make ends meet when working minimum wage jobs. Higher min. wage needed in City of La Crosse
- Employment est. and matching employment in city and county to population demographics in city and county for fair representation of all citizens (qualified and available people)
- Homelessness insufficient subsidized housing

Possible Goal: Neighborhoods are vibrant and diverse

Possible Action: Support efforts to diversify neighborhoods without displacing residents

Possible Goal: There is quality, affordable housing available to residents

Possible Action: Encourage developers and landlords to offer quality, affordable units

Possible Goal: Residents are able to earn a living wage

Possible Action: Encourage legislation to increase minimum wage

Possible Goal: Employee demographics will match those of residents

Possible Action: Encourage more efforts with hiring diverse candidates in city and county positions

Possible Goal: Subsidized housing is available for those that are homeless and transitioning

Possible Action: Encourage programs to expand subsidized housing

Public Health and Safety

Voted as top priorities:

- Mental health most therapists/counselors have waiting lists and can't be seen for 2-3 months. We need access to more options more therapists/psychiatrists/ what to do if beds are full more short term care
- Integrating systems healthcare county city nonprofit so that people don't fall through the cracks
- Drug and alcohol addiction treatment
- Dark streets, unsafe for those that must walk and use public transportation

Possible Goal: Increase the mental health services in La Crosse so people can get help quickly

Possible Action: Encourage hospitals and clinics to expand their mental health services, hire more therapists/counselors, find ways to make it easily accessible

Possible Goal: All provides in La Crosse County use same intake system to enter information on client

Possible Action: Encourage all providers to use Service Point (??) so all providers can access list of those needing help

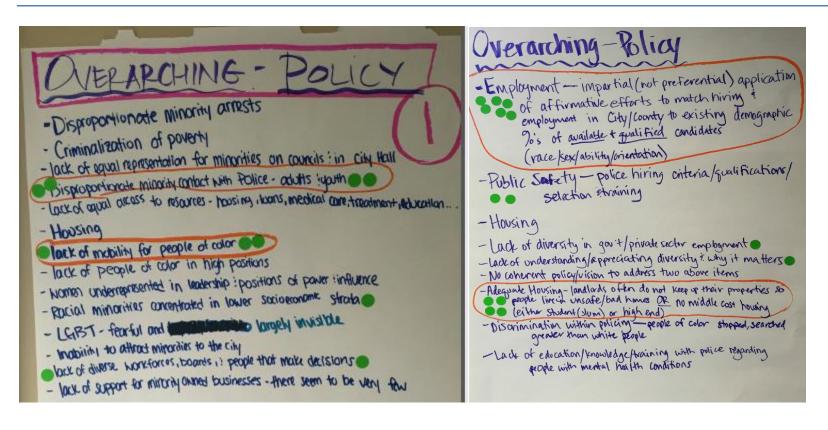
Possible Goal: Increase options for drug and alcohol addiction treatment

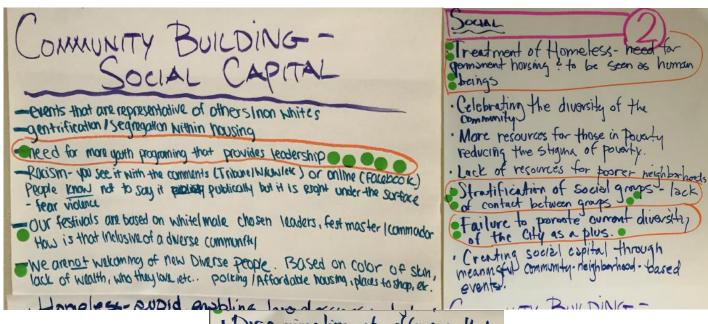
Possible Action: Work with groups such as Coulee Council on Addiction to determine what the needs and possible solutions are

Possible Goal: Increase walkability of streets and safety

Possible Action: Encourage City to fund lighting projects, including streets and bus stops

Appendix A – Images





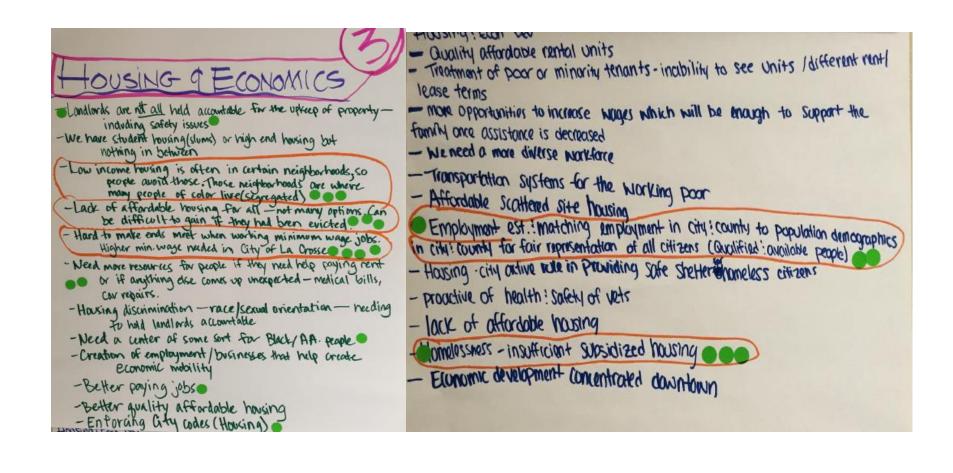
Discrimination of offenses that Could be categorized as civil rather than Criminal.

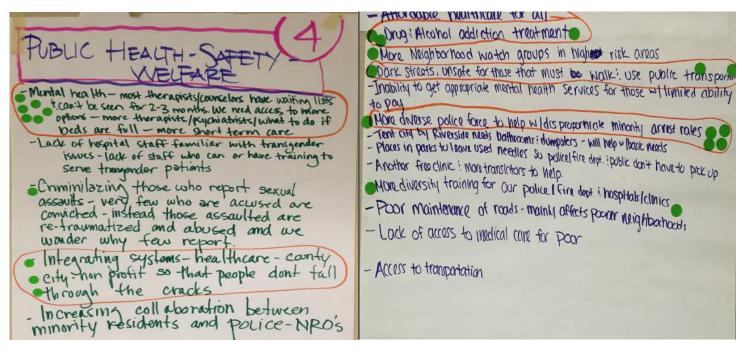
The events/festivals in the City cost money and are geared towards the majority-Oktobertest twentest prishfest etc-Heed more tree events that are inviting to all.

Divide between North side to South side.

High crime in some neighborhoods thinks revitalization.

Thinks revitalization and abuse thinks to the flight and discoverages controlled to the side of the si





Prioritizing atdoor recreation in our high-need neighborhoods parks-tmits and activities

Parenting and budgeting consulants provided in various neighborhoods

wellness classes that we are affordable /free and family oriented.

Appendix B- Implementation Worksheet

Overarching Goal: Gather statistics on police contact proportionate to demographics

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Overarching Goal: Work to ensure housing quality is better in La Crosse with affordable and adequate options

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Overarching Goal: Work toward having employee demographics of City/County proportionately match those of the residents

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Community Building Goal: Work toward multiple meaningful after school, weekend, and summer programming for youth

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Community Building Goal: Ensure homeless individuals and families are treated with dignity and respect and efforts are made to make sure they are put into permanent housing quickly

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Community Building Goal: Celebrate diversity in La Crosse

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Housing and Economic Development Goal: Make La Crosse's neighborhoods vibrant and diverse

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Housing and Economic Development Goal: Ensure there is quality, affordable housing available to residents

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Housing and Economic Development Goal: Residents are able to earn a living wage

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Housing and Economic Development Goal: Subsidized housing is available for those that are homeless and transitioning

	<u> </u>		
Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Public Health and Safety Goal: Increase the mental health services in La Crosse so people can get help quickly

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Public Health and Safety Goal: Work towards having all providers in La Crosse County use same intake system to enter information on client

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Public Health and Safety Goal: Increase options for drug and alcohol addiction treatment

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Public Health and Safety Goal: Increase walkability of streets and safety

Recommendation-Action	Partner(s)	Range	Priority
1.			
2.			
3.			

Goal	ŀ

Recommendation	Partner(s)	Range	Priority

Goal:

Recommendation	Partner(s)	Range	Priority

Goal	ı	•
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Recommendation	Partner(s)	Range	Priority



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