



CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE
Tuesday, August 2, 2022
7:30 P.M. | Via Web-Conference

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Meeting ID: 824 2796 7417, Password: 311459

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for July 5, 2022 (see attached).
3. Breaking Bread Updates.
4. HUB Program Updates.
5. Unhoused in Cheltenham and other support services.
6. Status update on the Human Relations Commission.
7. Update on LaMott Community Center.
8. Black Contractors/Vendors.
9. Old Business.
10. New Business.
11. Open Discussion.
12. Adjournment.

Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

A meeting of the **Civil Rights Task Force** for July 2022 was held tonight via web conference. Members in attendance were: Commissioner Irv Brockington, Wendy Blutstein, Will Pillsbury, and Liza Meiris. Staff present: Lieutenant Andrew Snyder, and Heather Samuels.

1. Mr. Brockington called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2022 were accepted.
3. Update on Human Relations Commission:

Heather Samuels and Alyson Elliott met recently with Dr. William Taylor from the local NAACP chapter and it was determined that more information would be needed from the state level HRC to clarify what training the state will provide and what the Township needs to provide as well as what complaints should be handled at the state level and what type of complaints should be handled at the local level. There will be a follow up meeting with the state to clarify this information. So far, there have been about five or six former HRC members that have expressed interest in being part of the HRC again. In addition, the Township was exploring a joint HRC and CRTF. It was shared that the Township ordinances may not support this. It was suggested that the meeting with Dr. Taylor be scheduled during a time outside of business hours so that those with day jobs can participate.

4. Update on LaMott Community Center

There was a meeting at LaMott Fire Company with LaMott residents, State Representative Nelson, the Township Manager, and Commissioners Brockington and Zygmund-Felt. There are a lot of repairs needed at the Community Center and there was an offer to do an estimate from a resident that is also a contractor, but the resident has not provided an estimate yet. The hope is to get youth involved in some of these meetings to share their input for what they want in the Community Center before plans are finalized.

5. Black and Female Contractors

There have been discussions with the Township in the past to try to increase Black and female contractors. There was a draft policy that the Township was working on regarding preference for minority and female contractors about a year ago, but it was not finalized and it is unclear where that policy stands. Commissioner Brockington will look into this and provide an update.

6. Uvulde School Shooting

Lt. Snyder shared that the Cheltenham Police Department has policies and procedures in place that would ensure that the failed police response that happened in Uvulde would not happen in Cheltenham, should a school shooting event like this occur, and how the department uses threat assessments for events like parades, to help determine the risk at each event. He also explained how they work with the county to track down illegal guns and straw purchasing. It was also discussed that schools should be able to provide mental health services immediately for children that need it and if whether or not the schools are equipped to identify the signs that could be associated with a student that could be capable of this. Some schools have been cutting resources such as counselors due to funding, which puts the mental health of students at risk.

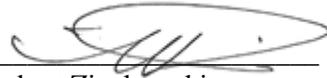
7. Old Business

- A. Commissioner Brockington is working on getting members of the Cheltenham African American Alliance and the Superintendent for the Cheltenham School District to join this committee.
- B. The committee will consider having a table at next year's Juneteenth event to get the word out about the Township.
- C. The committee also wanted to recognize Cheltenham Police Department for the breaking bread event and how well the event went.

8. New Business

- A. There seems to be limited resources for the unhoused in Montgomery County and to keep it on the Committee member's radar that this is a problem.

- B. Commissioner Brockington suggested that the Police Department connect with the youth, possibly during football practice or play a game of flag football, so that the Police Department gets to know the kids in the community. He will connect the Chief with the football coach to see if this is possible. However, it was suggested this not be during an already scheduled practice, but an optional practice so that the participants have choice on if they want to attend or not.
9. Open Discussion – None.
10. Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Heather Samuels