

A meeting of the Civil Rights Task Force for April 2021 was held tonight via web conference. Members in attendance were: Irv Brockington, Liza Meiris, Wendy Blutstein, Will Pillsbury and Jake Marcus. Staff present: Charlyn Battle, Director of Human Resources. Guests present: Noah Marlier, Elected Prothonotary of Montgomery County and Attorney of Law at HRMM&L.

1. Mr. Brockington called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for March 2021 were accepted.
3. Discussion on proposed mural in the Township-

Ms. Meiris mentioned that at the March Board of Commissioners meeting she asked if the Township could possibly paint a Black Lives Matter mural somewhere in the Township, similar to the one that was just painted in Norristown. Ms. Meiris noted that she received an amazing response from the Commissioners and Mr. Zienkowski sent a letter to PennDOT about a possible location for the mural. Mr. Holland suggested possibly painting some Township vehicles. Ms. Meiris will also reach out to the School District regarding Panther Road and she will design a flyer calling all artists. The group also discussed cost, financing and getting volunteers for this proposed project.

4. Landlord/Tenant Issues: Comments from Noah Marlier-

Mr. Marlier talked about issues that impact the residents in Montgomery County, the issue of evictions and the appeals process with the Prothonotary's Office. He also stated that in the near future we could be facing an eviction crisis and a homeless crisis. The state moratorium ended August 2020 and the Federal Government stepped in and issued a moratorium via the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The Federal Government realized the health concerns of people being evicted; however there are a lot of loop holes in this moratorium, the person must be struggling to pay their rent due to COVID. The group discussed different ways to get information out.

Ms. Marcus asked what we can do to educate about rent abatement. Mr. Brockington said that the schools have a pipeline for getting information out.

Mr. Marlier provided the following web-sites where residents can get help:

1. Prothonotary Website- <http://www.montcopa.org/97/Prothonotary> (see Landlord-Tenant tab at bottom)
2. Prothonotary Facebook page- <https://m.facebook.com/prothonotarynoah/>

Ms. Blutstien asked if anyone knew the percentage of renters in Cheltenham. Mr. Marlier said over 40k people are facing eviction in Montgomery County, which is about 830K, and that's about 5%. Ms. Meiris said there are 1,750 residences in Cheltenham Township that rent.

5. Police in our schools-

Mr. Bockington said his intentions are to this discuss this topic at the School/Township Liaison Meeting with the School Superintendent. At this time, Mr. Brockington recommended tabling this discussion until he has had the opportunity to speak with the School District.

Ms. Marcus asked Ms. Meiris if she could pull together numbers regarding policing. Ms. Meiris said she will send a link to the group regarding the data.

6. Anti-Asian Behavior- Shooting in Atlanta-

Mr. Brockington said he is working with the President of the Board of Commissioners on writing a statement regarding the shooting in Atlanta. He suggested including this issue in with the Black Lives Matter mural to Stop Asian Hate. Mr. Brockington has reached out to the Head of the Asian Community Group in Philadelphia, which included the Asian business owners in Cheltenham, but they have not responded. Mr. Brockington also reached out to State Representative Nelson's office, who has a relationship with that person and is trying to get a representative from the Asian community to come to our meeting to talk about what is going on in Cheltenham. Ms. Marcus said

the reason she wanted this item on the on the agenda was because the Township should say something, because as a community we are saying this is a horrible thing to happen.

7. Glenside Fire Company Update-

Mr. Brockington said the Swastika symbol has been removed from the building and the Glenside Fire Company's Initials are in its place.

8. Civil Right Task Force Flyer-

Ms. Meiris said she would email the flyer to the group. Mr. Brockington asked what we are going to do with the flyer. Ms. Meiris said we want people to know that we are here for them to express their concerns.

9. Old Business-

Ms. Marcus asked if the Police Department provided us the data from the Police Survey. Mr. Brockington said he would send an email to the Township Manager to request the data from the Police Chief and will also copy the Board President and the Solicitor. It was also asked once we get the data what are we going to do with it. Ms. Marcus said it can tell us something about behaviors, trends and personal experience to see if changes need to be made in policies or trainings.

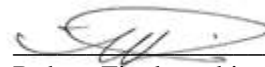
10. New Business-

Mr. Brockington said we will be getting a new member next month, Herbert Bailey and he will be appointed at the April Board of Commissioners Meeting.

11. Open Discussion/Citizen Comments-

Mr. Brockington mentioned that if there is an item that any of the members would like listed on the agenda for discussion, to please send it to him.

12. Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Charlyn Battle