

A meeting of the **Civil Rights Task Force (CRTF)** for May 2021 was held tonight via web conference. Members in attendance were: Irv Brockington, Liza Meiris, Wendy Blutstein, Will Pillsbury, Jake Marcus, and Herb Bailey. Staff present: Charlyn Battle, Director of Human Resources, Sgt. Jarreau Francis, and John Weed, Deputy Chief. Guests present Commissioner Ann Rappoport, Kathleen Foulkrod, Tonya Bailey, Junada Phipps, EW, and KE.

1. Mr. Brockington called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for March 2021 were accepted.
3. A Power Point Presentation on Police Accreditation was given by Sgt. Jarrue Francis. Sgt. Francis explained what the accreditation is, the process for obtaining the accreditation and how the Police Department maintains this status. There are currently 1,100 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of PA; however only 127 are accredited, which is only 9% and Cheltenham Township Police Department is proud to be one of those agencies. The CRTF had an in-depth discussion about the accreditation process and how it benefits the community through polices and standards that's set by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC). Deputy Chief Weed said that the Police Department is also monitored monthly by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), regarding juvenile rights. The County currently offers Crisis Intervention Specialist (CIS) and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for Police officers. In order to maintain accreditation it's an on-going process though out each year.
4. Discussion with School Board President Joel Fishbein: School-to-Prison Pipeline in Cheltenham School District:

Mr. Brockington said the Mr. Fishbein was not able to attend tonight's meeting to table this discussion until the next meeting. The CRTF discussed some issues that they would like to address with Mr. Fishbein.

5. Police Data:

Mr. Brockington tabled this item until he receives a copy of the Police survey.

6. Mural and Civil Rights Task Force Flyers:

Ms. Meiris asked to table this until the next meeting, where she will have more information to provide.

7. NAACP Youth Leadership Committee Video and Towns Hall Citizens Comments:

Mr. Meiris noted that she is a mentor for the NAACP Youth Leadership Committee that works mostly out of Springfield, with a majority of the children being from Springfield. The NAACP put together a phenomenal video where they collected anonymous accounts of what it's like for black students, which received a number of reactions. The group will be holding a Town Hall on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Below is the link for the video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HN-LMmUbZs0O3H9q bTZRX2ZO81ZCk5/view?usp=sharing>

8. Police Oversight and Accountability Commission:

Ms. Marcus asked if this type of Commission exists in Cheltenham and that Civilian oversight is something that we have to have in place permanently. Ms. Marcus asked about what we have, what can we have and what people are interested in having in Cheltenham and that having a Civilian Oversight Commission is good to help review reports and provide oversight of Police conduct in Cheltenham.

Deputy Chief Weed noted that there is oversight through the Township Manager and Board of Commissioners who are civilians.

Ms. Marcus asked if there could be a separate Commission that could handle this function.

Ms. Rappoport said the body camera policy was reviewed by the Commissioners, who added revisions to the policy at public meetings and they are actively involving civilians and the public.

Mr. Bailey asked if anyone knew of any other Townships that have an Oversight Commission and if so, maybe the Township could mirror one of them. The group also discussed taking a look at what Philadelphia has.

The CRTF continued to discuss the topic.

9. Old Business:

A. Mr. Brockington mentioned that he sent an email to the Township Manager regarding the police data.

10. New Business:

A. Mr. Brockington said he will send an email to Mr. Fishbein about attending the next CRTF meeting.

11. Open Discussion/Citizen Comments:

Ms. Foulkrod mentioned that she contacted our Code Enforcement about an issue with a property and Mr. Sergio immediately made contact with the owners and the issues were resolved. She thanked Mr. Sergio for his professionalism, speed of service and a job well done.

12. Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 10:06 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Charlyn Battle