

A meeting of the **Civil Rights Task Force** for November 2021 was held tonight via web conference. Members in attendance were: Commissioner Brockington, Liza Meiris, Will Pillsbury, and Jake Marcus. Staff present: Robert Zienkowski, Township Manager; and John Slavin, Acting Chief of Police. Guests present: Commissioner Ann Rappoport.

1. Mr. Brockington called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for July 6, 2021 were accepted.
3. Introduction of new Acting Chief of Police John Slavin:

Chief Slavin introduced himself to the members and went through his time with the Cheltenham Township Police Department and moving up through the ranks. The members had the opportunity to ask Chief Slavin questions about his goals and his outlook going forward with the Police Department. Discussions with the Chief Slavin included:

- The School to Prison Pipeline and the interaction between students and Police
 - The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Cheltenham Township Police Department and the Cheltenham School District
 - Holding people accountable for their actions
 - Expectations of the Township
 - Implementing a Local Diversionary Program
4. Review and discuss a draft Township Policy to engage and support minority-owned and women-owned businesses:

Ms. Meiris is very appreciative that the Township is working to implement this policy. Mr. Brockington suggested that the members review the policy and provide any feedback they may have at next month's meeting.

5. Philadelphia Driving Equality Bill:

Ms. Meiris summarized the Philadelphia Driving Equality Bill, which seeks to address the tension between Philadelphia Police and members of the community by removing the negative interactions of minor traffic stops. Chief Slavin commented on the recently passed bill and emphasized that public safety is the number one priority of the Township.

6. Mental Health:

Ms. Meiris emphasized the importance of mental health awareness, especially during these unprecedented times. Ms. Rappoport mentioned that members of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee (SAMH) are working to find ways to address mental health and they would love to have more resources to work with, including adding new members to the Committee who can help with more outreach to the community. Mr. Brockington suggested having the SAMH Committee join a future meeting to discuss goals going forward. Ms. Meiris and Ms. Marcus agreed that discussion on mental health should remain with the SAMH Committee, but the CRTF is available to provide resources if needed.

7. Old Business:

A. Ms. Marcus mentioned the Human Relations Commission and the desire to make this Commission active again. Ms. Rappoport mentioned that this topic was discussed recently with the Township Manager regarding ways to move forward with bringing this Commission back. Mr. Zienkowski said on the local level, this could be hard, but on the State level, it could be more beneficial to get a more independent review. Ms. Rappoport said that if it is a goal of the CRTF to take on the issues of the Human Relations Commission in the meantime, she could share this with Dr. William Taylor, who sat on the Human Relations Commission and is advocating to bring the Commission back, and let him know the desire of the Task Force to address these issues. Mr. Brockington suggested looking at the current Ordinance for the Human Relations Commission and the members can discuss this at the next meeting before making any decisions on the Commission.

8. New Business - None.
9. Open Discussion/Citizen Comments - None.
10. Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Ashley Lupino