

A meeting of the **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE** for August 2020 was held tonight via web conference. Members in attendance were: Irv Brockington, Daniel B. Norris, and Wendy Blutstein. Staff present: Charlyn Battle, Director of Human Resources and John Frye, Chief of Police. Guests present: Ann Rappoport, Liza Meiris, Sam Seplow and Gretchen Wischart.

1. Mr. Brockington called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for July 2, 2020 were accepted.
3. Discussion on the Police Department HUB Program. Chief Frye explained that the Abington Police Department formed the HUB program in 2015. It is a social service program to identify at-risk members of the community and get them help before they reach a point of crisis. Officers and supervisors identify cases they think would benefit from these services and discuss the cases at a HUB meeting. These cases would ordinarily be handled by police officers.

Chief Frye said Officer Dave Sparango from the Department's Community Response Unit attended his first meeting a few weeks ago where 15 cases were presented to the group – 11 of which were accepted by the program. Chief Frye also noted he will attend another meeting in two weeks to follow up on the previous cases and present new ones. Mr. Brockington clarified that individuals do not have to seek services; these services are brought to them at the recommendation of the HUB.

Ms. Meiris commented that this was a great program.

Ms. Blutstein asked how well the services are working, whether the services are getting to people and why are some cases not taken. Chief Frye stated this was the first meeting the Township has attended and will be able to provide more information at the next meeting.

Ms. Rappoport inquired about what services are involved with this program. Chief Frye stated that there are a number of social services involved.

Mr. Norris asked how the program is funded. Chief Frye said funding is not required for this program.

Ms. Meiris asked if HUB stands for anything. Chief Frye stated that it is not an abbreviation for anything; it's the like the hub of a wheel and services are poured in.

Mr. Brockington asked Chief Frye to provide a report at the next Public Safety meeting, since this is a great example of Community Policing at its best.

4. Mr. Brockington asked Chief Frye to provide an update on the recent survey conducted by the Police Department. Chief Frye stated that the survey was done to help gauge the level of services the community is getting versus what the community would like to see. 304 people commented and 544 people responded to the survey; these comments and suggestions will be reviewed and implemented to better improve this community. Mr. Brockington asked Chief Frye if he could list the priorities mentioned in the survey. Chief Frye said the Department has already started making a conscience effort to address the community and overall the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The Department also has an open house every September.
5. Mr. Brockington discussed the need for the Township to be more diverse when hiring vendors and awarding contracts; he would like to know how diverse the companies are that are receiving contracts from the Township.

Ms. Blutstein asked if the Township has requirements or policies to use businesses located in Cheltenham. Mr. Brockington said there is no specific policy, but the Township tries to use local businesses for projects, when possible.

Mr. Norris the Township has talked about using local, minority and female-owned businesses. However, it has rules it must adhere to when awarding contracts. Mr. Norris said the Township needs to do more research on this.

Mr. Brockington said the Township should do a better job presenting bids to companies that are minority and female-owned.

Ms. Wisheart said she could share the point system her companies use to gauge diversity for procurement with the Township.

6. Mr. Brockington discussed ways to increase membership of the Human Relations Committee and said he will follow up with the Township Solicitor about adding committee members. He will also reach out to current members to see if they are still interested in serving on this Committee.
7. Mr. Brockington stated there was a recent incident of racist vandalism in the Township and wanted to keep the Committee apprised of what was going on.

Ms. Meiris commented on a Swastika on the outside of the Glenside Fire House. Ms. Rappoport stated that this was brought to the Board of Commissioners about 15 years ago and they voted to leave it alone. The issue was then raised again by Senator Haywood's office. The Commissioners sent an emissary to discuss this issue with the fire house and suggested that they place it inside the fire house. Mr. Brockington agrees that it should be placed inside and he will follow up with Commissioner Areman since it is in his Ward. Ms. Meiris mentioned that she had a link regarding documentation on the history of the Glenside Fire House swastika. Mr. Brockington asked Ms. Meiris to email him the link and he will forward it to the appropriate people.

8. Mr. Brockington announced that the next meeting will be held on September 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. and before the next meeting, he will follow up on the following:
 - Glenside Fire House symbol
 - Results of the Police Department survey
 - A point system for vendors and contractors
 - Ways to increase membership
9. Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.



Terry Fedorchak
Interim Township Manager

Per Charlyn J. Battle