

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

1. Mr. Brockington called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2020 were accepted.
3. Names of Parks, buildings, pools and recreation centers in the Township

Mr. Brockington suggested looking into the names of our pools and parks and recreation centers to make sure they are not named after people they should not be. Ms. Meris mentioned that she has started doing research and has found a lot of information so far. Ms. Rappoport recommended reaching out to Thomas Wieckowski from the Historical Commission, as he has done a lot of research already.

4. Police body-worn cameras

Mr. Brockington asked Chief Frye to provide an update on body-worn cameras. Chief Frye said the cameras have been ordered and they are hoping for delivery by the end of October. They are hoping to have all of the officers trained on the body-worn cameras by the end of the year. The policy has been reviewed and for the most part is almost complete.

Mr. Brockington asked who reviewed and approved the policy other than the Township Solicitor. Chief Frye stated that the PCCD, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, Dr. Brown from the Cheltenham NAACP, the Board of Commissioners, his internal leadership staff and the CTPA Attorney have all reviewed the policy.

Ms. Meris asked when the policy be made public. Chief Frye said they are planning to put the policy out simultaneously with the cameras and he is currently working with the Township Solicitor on that.

Mr. Brockington asked if the policy should be made public before the cameras so that the public can review it. Ms. Rappoport stated that there is nothing that stops the public from expressing some of their concerns up front. Chief Frye will review the final copy of the policy. Not every police policy is subject to a vote because of certain accreditations; however I think we can do both and if we need to make tweaks, we may be able make them.

Ms. Blutstein asked about the role of the Police Department on Election Day, in particular the ballot drop-off boxes and other voter activities. Chief Frye said they will be monitoring all locations.

Ms. Blutstein also expressed concerns that there should be some preparation by the Police Departments throughout the County, given the level of anxiety for the upcoming election. Chief Frye assured the Committee that we will be ready in case of an emergency.

5. Follow-up discussion of the Glenside Fire Company

Mr. Brockington stated that he spoke to Mr. Areman today to get an update on the swastika and the Glenside Fire Company voted to cover up the swastika.

6. Open Discussion

A. Mr. Brockington was asked how someone would reach out to the Committee if they feel they are being discriminated against. He said we could provide an email address and have someone check it or he can check it.

B. Mr. Seplow stated that we need a procedure in place for complaints. Mr. Brockington suggested using a special email address, phone number and forms that can be mailed into Human Resources and designate someone to open the mail. Ms. Meris mentioned that Google forms would work well.

Ms. Rappoport stated that we have an appointed Human Relations Commission, who are trained in the process of handling complaints and doesn't think we are charged with dealing with official

complaints, just a referral process. The form should be a sense of feedback to the Township to help us serve the residents better.

Mr. Brockington said he will talk to the Township Solicitor about how to handle a formal complaint and help us draft a form. He will also work on getting a separate email address and phone number and will provide this information at next Public Affairs Meeting and hopefully by our November meeting can provide an email address, phone number and a draft of the form.

7. Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.



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Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

Per Charlyn J. Battle