

A meeting of the **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE** for December 2020 was held tonight via Zoom. Members in attendance were: Irv Brockington, Will Pillsbury, Liza Meiris and Wendy Blutstein. Staff present were: Robert Zienkowski, Township Manager, Joy Mayfield, Human Resources Assistant, and Lieutenant Andrew Snyder, Cheltenham Township Police. Guests present: Ann Rappoport, Nicole McGruder and Mathew Abraham.

1. Mr. Brockington called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2020 were accepted.
3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee update- Mr. Abraham mentioned sending a letter from the SAMH's Committee to Commissioner Rappoport and Commissioner Brockington. Mr. Brockington did not recall receiving a letter. Mr. Abraham stated that the overall goal of the SAMH Committee is to bring evidence based information and awareness about mental health issues to the public. The committee has worked with the School District over the years; however it has been challenging. He also wanted to thank Commissioner's Rappoport and Brockington for their continued support of the SAMH Committee.

Mr. Brockington asked if any of the Committee members had questions or comments for Mr. Abraham. Ms. Meiris commented that the Committee has collaborated with the Police HUB Program, which is a preventative service that helps those who are suffering from mental illness receive services first. Also, in relation to Mr. Abraham's initiative for autism, she mentioned that the Abington Police Department has a program called "Take Me Home" and Cheltenham was listed to register people who may have autism, Down Syndrome, or another form of disability that prevents them from communicating where they live. Ms. Meiris felt this could be another initiative to boost awareness. Mr. Abraham was aware of the HUB Program due to Jackie Hinchee, SAMH Committee Liaison. He believes the HUB Program could be very useful to residents and everyone should know about it. Mr. Zienkowski confirmed that information about mental health and the increase in COVID-19 cases in Cheltenham Township was posted on the Township website that evening. Mr. Brockington requested that Mr. Zienkowski add the HUB Program onto the website and informed Mr. Abraham that he will attend the next SAMH Committee meeting on December, 17 2020.

4. Update on Glenside Fire Company- Mr. Brockington announced that the symbol will finally be removed from the Glenside Fire Company. Mr. Zienkowski assured Mr. Brockington that there is a stipulation that the Glenside Fire Company needs to have this done expeditiously. Mr. Brockington predicts the middle of January 2021 for the removal of the symbol. He is very proud of the Committee and Commissioners for getting this done after decades of waiting. Ms. Meiris commented that this process took 81 years for the symbol to be removed.
5. Update on CTPD use of Body Cameras- Lt. Snyder said they placed orders for body cameras in August, but due to COVID-19 and the company being inundated with other orders, the CTPD delivery was delayed. The body cameras were quoted to arrive in October, but are now predicted to deliver in January or February 2021. Once the equipment is received the Police Department will be able to move forward with training their teams. Mr. Brockington asked how long the training program will take. Lt. Snyder said it is anticipated that it will take 2-3 weeks to train the entire Police Department. Mr. Brockington asked what the Officers reaction was when being informed about the body cameras. Lt. Snyder said they have received 100% full support from the officers. Ms. Meiris asked how the Police intend to use the cameras. Lt. Snyder said according to the policy every official interaction with the public will be recorded. If no enforcement action is taken or no arrest is made the video will be stored for 60 days and then deleted on the 61st day. Videos will be flagged and stored if needed as evidence for a criminal case.

Mr. Brockington asked Lt. Snyder if there were any updates about the HUB Program. Lt. Snyder stated that he does not have any direct involvement with the HUB.

6. Open Discussion

- a. HUB Program Flyer- Mr. Brockington requested that Ms. Meiris present her flyer for the HUB Program for the Committee to review and provide feedback Ms. Meiris shared her idea for the HUB Program to share via social media and on the Cheltenham website. Once the flyer is finalized, she plans to send to Chief Frye. Mr. Brockington stated that he would like the Commissioners to approve the flyer prior to Ms. Meiris sending it to Chief Frye. Mr. Brockington also said it would be great for there to be a flyer for Abington's "Take Me Home" Program as well. He requested that Mr. Zienkowski post the flyer on the cable channels, in addition to posting on the Township website.
 - b. Historical Marker- Ms. Meiris expressed her goal to place a historical marker on the land where the Black cemetery once was, but unfortunately was paved down by Limekiln Pike in the 1970s. She mentioned her interest in attending the Historical Commission meeting next week to find out what it takes to get a historical marker and who to seek approval from. Mr. Brockington assured Ms. Meiris that going to the meeting is a great start, but expressed his concerns about the marker placement and receiving permission from the property owner. He requested that Mr. Zienkowski assist with this initiative. Mr. Zienkowski mentioned the process shouldn't be too difficult. However, he does see a challenge with the placement and approval from the property owner. Ms. Meiris plans to reach out to Joyce Mosley, descendant of the family, once the Committee finds out what is required to move forward.
 - c. Name Change- Mr. Brockington informed Mr. Zienkowski of the disbandment of the original Human Relations Commission due to their lack of meetings over the years. Ms. Rappoport spoke with the Township Solicitor to learn what the rules were to dismantle a Commission and what the Committee needed to do. She asked Mr. Zienkowski to follow-up on this.
7. Upon motion of Mr. Brockington, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Joy Mayfield