



ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Monday, August 31, 2020

Location: Zoom virtual meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88665186558?tk= hXwOd72rBJfOPI76Uulb0Diil0PayonUwCehZsDcgA.DQIAAAUpNtg_hZvQOVucF92TFItZVVzLTBPeWxBYVhnAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=N2I3VE1uSDBmWmFudXh0aVBsTUlsQT09

Time: 6:30-7:30pm

Meeting Type: Council on Human Rights Special Meeting

Attendees: ACHR members: Ellen Parker, Mary Flaherty, Stephanie Gray, Steve Berdos, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, and Mac Borgellas; Guest: Stanley Estime; Chairperson: Laurie Sawyer.

Business:

1. Chairperson Laurie Sawyer opened the meeting.
2. Tonight's agenda will be preparing for the executive meeting Laurie requested with Mayor Heroux on our anti-racism recommendations. Given the Kenosha, WI police shooting of Jacob Blake, Laurie requested that Mayor Heroux meet with her and a representative of the council to discuss ongoing progress relating to Attleboro's efforts to address racism locally.
 - A. We want to be pro-active in our efforts to address racism in Attleboro.
 - B. Push for community forum – engaging with the community and examining the ways in which Attleboro residents are affected by racism.
 - i. Present discussion topics to the community via social media and/or forum
 - ii. Collect qualitative data and present it to the administration to address
 - C. 8 Can't Wait
 - i. Let the community know that we are examining use of force policies
 - ii. We don't need to have it completed before we present to the community – other municipalities have released progress, not completion
 - D. Declaring racism a public health crisis – Obama's Mayor's Pledge
 - i. Announce that we are examining policies
 - ii. Announce that we are engaging with the community

- E. Body cameras – in negotiation, we do not need to follow up on this until we get further updates from the mayor
- F. How do we engage the community and encourage them to report instances of racism?
 - i. Brochure – put up at library, local stores, send out with tax bill?
 - ii. Social media
- G. Important distinction to make clear – anti-racism does not mean anti-police. We don't want to wait to act until racism interferes with police work here in Attleboro. We want to ensure that our officers have the tools, training, and personnel to prevent racial bias from interfering with their work in our community.
- H. In order for us to determine that our officers are adequately protected from racial bias interfering with their work, we must have access to data to support this and monitor it over time.
- I. Thin Blue Line alternative suggestions
 - i. Fly BLM flag and American flag in conjunction with TBL flag when it comes to Attleboro?
 - ii. No flag, but offer to welcome the Massachusetts Firefighters Union to Attleboro and offer a different but significant token of Attleboro's appreciation of Officer Chesna's sacrifice?
 - iii. Decided that focusing on the TBL flag during the executive meeting might detract from progress as it relates to our other anti-racism recommendations.

Action Items:

- 1. Create agenda for executive meeting with Mayor Heroux

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 from 6:30-8pm