

PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 26th, 6:00 PM



Commissioner Attendees: Chair Tommy Parker, Vice Chair Sherrod Smith, Co-Secretary Nick Di Domizio, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Howard Levy, Lew Maltby, Anastasia Mann, Sean H. Miller, Surinder Sharma, Fern Spruill

Liaison: Leticia Fraga

Members of the Public: Alana Burman, Scott Richman, Veronica Olivares-Weber, Wilma Solomon

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Council Liaison Fraga. Council Liaison Fraga recommended that the zoom link details be added to the top of the invite.
- II. Council Liaison Fraga read the Land Acknowledgment. She recommended that the full text be added to the agenda in the future.
- III. Commissioner Parker nominated for Chair by Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen, seconded by Commissioner Smith, Unanimously approved. Council Liaison Fraga handed over the oversight of the meeting to Chair Parker.
- IV. Commissioner Smith nominated by Commissioner Mann for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Sharma. Unanimously approved. Commissioner Mann read bio for Vice Chair Smith. Link here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rofAvP68eCDGXqkvReOkNA_BzlypTBUF/view?usp=sharing
- V. Commissioner DiDomizio nominated by Chair Parker for Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen. Unanimous approval.
- VI. Chair Parker called motion to approve December minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sharma. Unanimous approval.
 - a. Commissioner Sharma wanted to add a clarification to the December Minutes, which are captured here. The official REIA Toolkit link is as follows:
<https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5977/Princeton-Racial-Equity-Impact-Assessment-Toolkit-PDF>). The other link was our working copy link while we were developing the Toolkit.
- VII. Congratulations were made to Council Liaison Fraga for being appointed to Council President.
- VIII. Council Liaison Report
 - a. Council has agenda-setting meetings, which would be relevant for any BCC. They can bring items of interest up for a future meeting. Not meant to take action. Council didn't get full experience of what was going onto the agenda.
 - b. Human Services Commission-Ross Wishnick is stepping down as chair. Veronica Olivares-Weber will be chair and Larry Spruill will be vice-chair.

- c. Board of Health has a new chair and veteran vice-chair providing support. Chair-Meredith.
 - d. Council Liaison Fraga is always available to provide support as needed.
- IX. Resolution
- a. Link to Resolution:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Oma_0qf8DiQ43fgeWBapFpqexObPE1DQ/view?usp=sharing
 - b. Condemns attack on capitol on January 6th
 - c. Committing to countering hate and extremism
 - d. Urging residents to adopt these values and keep everyone safe.
 - e. Commissioner Sharma asked whether Bullet #8 should include those who incite to commit criminal acts.
 - f. Council Liaison Fraga commented that action cannot be taken at the local level.
 - g. Scott Richman noted that the resolution is a statement and can be changed depending on our values.
 - h. ADL does a lot of work tracking extremists. They track extremists and pass that information to the proper authorities
 - i. Scott Richman provided a recent Synopsis of white supremacy and domestic terrorism in America.
 - j. Scott Richman spoke to the NJ assembly about cyberhate and prevention mechanisms.
 - k. Scott Richman noted that the resolution was framed as a step in in the right direction by the council.
 - l. Letica noted that the Resolution has been added to the agenda setting meeting for council.
 - m. Commissioner Maltby asked who will be responsible for creating and managing the lecture series.
 - i. Chair Parker answered that we can continue to have dialogues like we did before and have more know your rights seminars.
 - ii. Scott noted that ADL dues partnerships and provides curricula for various topics. Happy to answer any questions. Scott Richman's email is srichman@adl.org.
 - iii. Alana Burman offered to provide hate crime data for Princeton. aburman@adl.org
- X. Committee Reports
- a. CRB (Civilian Renew Board) report presented by Commissioner Maltby and Vice Chair Smith
 - b. Looking to involve the key players at the municipal level.
 - c. Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen asked which model they are pursuing. Commissioner Maltby said they're doing a review model because it takes less resources and all of the data is readily available.
 - d. Not reviewing right vs. wrong, but also trying to be proactive about making recommendations for systemic police changes.
 - e. "I hear my people singing" recommended read by Commissioner Spruill

- f. Commissioner Maltby promises that this will be a listening exercise, pursuing feedback from the community. The goal is to have an ordinance to create a review board in the way the community wants it to look.
 - g. Commissioner Sharma reported on the REIA toolkit. It was positively received by the council in December. Next steps: Administrator will set up a presentation and Q&A for department heads.
 - h. The toolkit was presented to Princeton Public Schools (PPS) on January 22nd. PPS will take a look at the toolkit.
 - i. Racial equity should be a top priority of PPS.
 - j. Princeton Parents for Black Children, Rhinold Ponder
 - k. Commissioner Sharma also drafted the Guidelines, Policies and Procedures for the Civil Rights Commission. He is seeking review and comments from the CRC Commissioners. He will add a few more references/resources for purpose of completion on the last page. Link here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kNUXWNkPkK8hdLuidaV-y-F32z5Y13sV/view?usp=sharing>
 - l. Commissioner Sharma went through the NJ + Federal civil rights Commissions for guidance and advice for the document.
 - m. Commissioner Maltby noted that many groups need to see it, including the conflict resolution committee.
- XI. Chair Report
- a. Chair parker reminder commissioners to familiarize themselves with the ordinances.
 - b. Expressed thanks for subcommittees and their work.
 - c. REIA is going out to local news sources already.
- XII. Introductions
- a. Commissioner Levy and Commissioner Miller introduced themselves.
 - b. Commissioner Miller provided a bio. Link here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q1LYiuYYSAU56au4xusc41t6WEaZoHyt/vi-ew?usp=sharing>
 - c. Commissioner Levy provided a bio. Link here: https://mccc.edu/athletics/coach-bio_levy.htm

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

The next meeting of the CRC will be Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 at 6pm.

Please provide agenda items for the next meeting to Chair Parker, Vice-Chair Smith and Secretary DiDomizio by Tuesday, February 16th, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Di Domizio, Secretary