



# PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

### Tuesday May 23, 7:00 PM

**Commissioner Attendees:** Fern Spruill (Chair), Howard Levy (Vice-Chair), Surinder Sharma (Secretary), Nick Di Domizio (LGBTQ Liaison), Walter Bliss, Lina Genovesi, Arifa Khandwalla, Lew Maltby

**Commissioner Attendees via the Zoom:** Priya Peyman, Stacy Mann

**Council Liaison Attendee:** Councilwoman Leticia Fraga, Absent

**Members of the Public:** Wilma Solomon, Bob Kaz, Linda Oppenheim, Maria Garcia, Afsheen Shamsi

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.
  - a. All future meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. The meetings will be in person at the Municipal Building, 400 Witherspoon Street
- II. April 25, 2023, Minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Council Liaison Report
  - a. No report.
- IV. Committee Reports

#### **a. Police Accountability and Transparency Project**

The Police Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee members; Commissioners Maltby, Bliss, Khandwalla, and Spruill (Chair) met with the Princeton Public Safety Committee and the Police Chief on Thursday April 27. The purpose of the meeting was to help improve police transparency by adding racial breakdown data to the Princeton Police Department's website. After deliberations, the Safety Committee agreed that the racial breakdown of the will be added to the Police Department's Website on an annual basis.

Commissioner Di Domizio asked that in future the hate crime data should also be included in the Police Department's annual report. Commissioner Maltby agreed to follow-up with the Safety committee.

#### **b. Advocacy Committee**

Commissioners Genovesi, Khandwalla, and Peyman suggested CRC draft a resolution on Islamophobia. Afsheen Shamsi highlighted increased incidences of Islamophobia and agreed to draft a resolution for CRC's consideration.

### **c. Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Toolkit Committee**

Commissioner Sharma suggested that municipality should follow up on the implementation of REIA toolkit across all departments. The CRC is awaiting Councilwoman Fraga's next steps on how best to implement the REIA toolkit. Previously Councilwoman Fraga had agreed to speak with the Council and Seattle municipality people to find out how best to implement the REIA toolkit. Commissioners Mann offered Princeton University students help in the implementation process. Commissioner Maltby suggested that every time we have a new Ordinance, there should be a REIA toolkit assessment.

### **d. Reparations**

Commissioner Bliss asked Commissioner Sharma to supply a progress report on reparations at the next monthly meeting in June.

## **V. Chair Report**

Chair Spruill highlighted that CRC Commissioners should attend the Division on NJ Civil Rights training courses online at [education@njcivilrights.gov](mailto:education@njcivilrights.gov).

## **VI. Vice Chair Report**

Vice-Chair Levy mentioned that CRC can effectively use the Princeton Public library resources for community reach out.

## **VII. Commissioner Comments**

- a. The Municipal Flag raising is on Friday June 2 at noon in front of the Monument Hall
- b. The Princeton Community Pride Picnic will be held on June 3 from 12-3PM in Palmer Square.
- c. Princeton Pride Parade is scheduled on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 10AM at Municipal Building and will finish at the Y. CRC will man a table at the Y with literature and a signage. Chair Fruill and Commissioner Sharma will man the Table at the Y.
- d. Since CRC has many new commissioners, Commissioner Sharma suggested a new photo of the CRC commissioners for CRC website and its pamphlets. He also volunteered to design a new pamphlet describing CRC's mission, goals, activities and how the public can get in touch with the CRC.

Commissioners Peyman and Vice-Chair Levy are working with Kim Dorman of Princeton Public Library to come up with plans for the Juneteenth celebrations. The Juneteenth forum discussions will be held at the Princeton Public Library on June 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to noon. Chair, Fruill mentioned that Joanne Parker will be very happy to hear about the Juneteenth celebrations.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

Wilma Solomon of NIOT announced that the annual Unity Awards will be held on Thursday June 8 at 7PM. Maria Cruz asked for an update on the Welcome to Princeton Signage, she is concerned about the progress and lack of communication among the parties. Commissioner Di Domizio mentioned that Councilwoman Fraga is the right person to ask for the next steps the Council plans to take. Linda Oppenheim highlighted the affordable housing complaints and renters' rights in Princeton. Is this a CRC's issue or Princeton Housing Authority issue?

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

**The next meeting of the CRC will be on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 7 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Surinder P Sharma, Secretary