

**PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**



**Commissioner Attendees:** Chair Tommy Parker, Vice Chair Sherrod Smith, Secretary Nick Di Domizio, Howard Levy, Anastasia Mann, Fern Spruill

**Absent Members:** Lew Maltby, Surinder Sharma

**Liaison:** Councilwoman Leticia Fraga

**Members of the Public:** None

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.
- II. Commissioner Di Domizio read the Land Acknowledgment.
- III. June Minutes were approved.
- IV. Chair Parker expressed thanks from those who came together to support his family over the past few months.
- V. Council Liaison Report
  - a. Vacancies on the CRC
    - i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the commission is now missing one commissioner and one alternate.
  - b. Princeton Public Library Event
    - i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the Princeton Public Library is holding an event at Princeton Shopping Center where the BCC's are encouraged to hold tables in an effort to recruit more members. Event is on October 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2 PM. Council Liaison Fraga needs to let Kim Dorman from the Library know if we are interested in holding a table.
  - c. Community Member Recognition
    - i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the next council meeting falls on Indigenous People's Day. The council has been asking volunteers from the community to recognize other community members..
    - ii. Council Liaison Fraga wants to recognize Rev Karen Hernandez-Granzen at the Council Meeting that falls on Indigenous People's Day.
  - d. Community Center Task Force
    - i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the last task force meeting resulted in asking folks to make recommendations for wish list items, not in infrastructure, but rather, what gaps need to be filled in the community.
    - ii. Commissioner Spruill acknowledged that there is no such thing as one-size-fits-all solution for the community center. The focus is on filling gaps.
    - iii. Council Liaison Fraga recently learned through Leighton Newlin that the Henry Pannell Center would not be used by as wide of an audience as it used to. It belongs to the housing authority and they

are taking it back. A municipality-owned facility would not charge for use, as opposed to the Housing Authority.

- iv. Commissioner Mann wanted clarification on what jurisdiction is the "Housing Authority"?
- v. Council Liaison Fraga confirmed it is federal owned.
- vi. Commissioner Mann suggested that Princeton University Community liaisons should be contacted and invited to future task force meetings.
- vii. Commissioner Levy shared a sentiment that people who come into town, whatever their economic class, come to Princeton for the great things that have been established the same people who are being pushed out.

e. Last Council Meeting

- i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that Chair Parker attended the previous council meeting to provide feedback for the Board of Health Subcommittee on creating a taskforce on Structural Racism as a Public Health Crisis. The Board of Health subcommittee can adopt ordinances and resolutions without council's approval. The Board of Health taskforce would like the Civil Rights Commission to be a partner.

f. Government Alliance on Race and Equity

- i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that there are folks within the Municipality that are looking into the application for the Municipality to join GARE and create a presentation for potential future users.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Civilian Review Board

- i. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the best way for the CRC to work toward an ordinance is to present work to Council before getting too far down the line.
- ii. Chair Parker reminded commissioners to read the ordinance that created the Civil Rights Commission, noting that they are sanctioned as an advisory body and make recommendations to Council.
- iii. Council Liaison Fraga said that Oct 11 is the next meeting, but that may be too soon to present something.
- iv. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the ordinance will require legal review

b. LGBTQ Liaison

- i. Commissioner Di Domizio reported on the Municipality's submission for the 2021 Municipal Equality Index scorecard. No points recommended to be gained or lost. The Municipality is in good standing with a maximum score. Commissioner Di Domizio highlighted some areas of risk that need to be addressed in the coming year.

- ii. Council Liaison Fraga noted that HiTOPs is going to be located above the new Capital Health location in the Historic Witherspoon-Jackson Neighborhood. They are a potential community partner.
  - iii. Council Liaison Fraga reached out to Police Chief Morgan about appointing a new police liaison because the current liaison retired.
  - iv. Council Liaison Fraga recommended that Commissioner Di Domizio put together a report to present to council and make recommendations.
- VII. Chair Report
  - a. Retreat
    - i. Chair Parker will touch base with Council Liaison Fraga to see whether the commission can have a retreat in a socially distant and outdoor setting to review many of the topics discussed today.
- VIII. Commissioner Comments
  - a. In response to Council Liaison Fraga raising the issue of a “juvenile police officer,” Commissioner Mann mentioned that the CRC — independent of law enforcement — could try to connect with “at-risk” youth, i.e. youth from historically and structurally disadvantaged groups. Commissioner Spruill talked about the way young people she works with have become immune to police tactics. She insisted she had no expertise but lots of empathy for these young people. Commissioner Mann asked if Commissioner Spruill would help us reach some of Princeton’s young people with the trust she has built and she agreed. Chair Parker concurred.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM

**The next meeting of the CRC will be Tuesday, October 26th, 2021 at 6pm.**

**Please provide agenda items for the next meeting to Chair Parker, Vice-Chair Smith and Secretary Di Domizio by Tuesday, October 19th, 2021.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Di Domizio, Secretary