

PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 23rd, 6:00 PM



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

Absent Members: Chair Tommy Parker

Liaison: Councilwoman Leticia Fraga

Members of the Public: Kim Dorman, Wilma Solomon

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Vice Chair Smith.
- II. Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen read the Land Acknowledgment.
- III. Commissioner Sharma got feedback from on the Guidelines, Policies and Procedures for the Civil Rights Commission.
- IV. January Minutes were approved.
- V. Council Liaison Report
 - a. Youth Advisory Committee Event
 - i. Councilwoman Fraga announced an upcoming Youth Advisory Committee Event in partnership with the Civil Rights Commission on February 26th at 6 PM
 - ii. Topic: Safe Neighborhoods
 - iii. Police will be in attendance as part of the dialogue
 - iv. Chair Parker and Councilwoman Fraga to attend representing the Civil Rights Commission (CRC)
 - v. Link to Flyer:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LKReFMJ7BJtul4EemMKNr6u7zRkgVM4E/view?usp=sharing>
 - b. Presentation on Race & Housing in Princeton
 - i. March 8th @ 7PM at Council Meeting (Monday)
 - ii. In line with Affordable Housing presentation
 - iii. Commissioner Mann noted that the Affordable Housing Map has been elaborated
 - c. Council Meetings are back to Mondays starting in March
 - d. Reminder – Agenda Setting meetings are best to make Councilwoman Fraga aware of any action items or future items.
 - e. Council passed resolution to allow for Cannabis Taskforce
 - i. Looking for community involvement including CRC. Vice Chair Smith will represent the CRC.
 - ii. The team is recruiting
 - iii. Commissioner Mann asked if people with specific skillsets are needed.
 - iv. Taxation, Education/Outreach and Social & Restorative Justice in policing and enforcement are major items that subcommittees will address.

- v. Councilpersons Niedergang, Fraga and Pirone-Lambros will serve on the taskforce
- vi. Reaching out to university.
- vii. Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen inquired about involvement from Faith-based orgs. E.g. Princeton Clergy Association
 - 1. Dave Davis + Lukata Mjumbe possibly
- viii. Councilwoman Fraga shared links that outline key points in the legislation
 - 1. The main bill is A-21 (https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A0500/21_R2.PDF). A-21 legalizes and regulates cannabis possession for adults over 21 years old. This is the main bill and the link above brings you to the final version signed by the Governor.
 - 2. There is also the, ACS-1897 (https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A2000/1897_R3.PDF), which decriminalizes marijuana and hashish possession.
 - 3. S-3454 (https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S3500/3454_R1.PDF) which is the “clean up” bill that clarifies marijuana and cannabis use and possession penalties for those under 21.
- f. Councilwoman Fraga discussed adding the ADL resolution to the agenda. Vice Chair Smith noted that this resolution needs to be discussed in committee first.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. LGBTQ+ Liaison
 - i. Commissioner Di Domizio reported that he has been working with Trenton’s LGBTQ+ Liaison to have a dialogue with the Governor’s Deputy Chief of Staff, Director of the State Health Benefits Program to revise language in the SHBP that meets the acceptable language approved by the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index Team.
 - ii. All coverage has been found to be acceptable, and a language revision is needed. Commissioner Di Domizio will work with the SHBP staff to revise that language for future revisions.
 - iii. Commissioner Di Domizio expressed the need for the Princeton NJ Government website to have an LGBTQ+ resources page or sub-page as part of the Civil Rights Commission’s Page.
 - iv. Councilwoman Fraga recommended to contact the webmaster-Christina to initiate. The webmaster requires Councilwoman Fraga’s approval
- b. Commissioner Sharma noted that there was outreach to the Princeton Public School’s new Superintendent, and that they plan to working with her as part of his subcommittee. The focus is on Equity in the schools.
- c. Commissioner Levy asked how many committees there are? Commissioner Mann noted there is a list somewhere. Required Committees include Communication, Outreach & Education, and

Remediation of Civil Rights Complaints. Chair Parker will be asked to send the full list to commissioners.

- d. Commissioner Miller asked to be added to Community Engagement & Education committees
- VII. Chair Report - Skipped
- VIII. Vice Chair Report – Skipped
- IX. Commissioner Comments
 - a. Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE)
 - i. Commissioner Mann spoke on an effort to get the Municipality to join GARE
 - ii. Website: www.racialequityalliance.org
 - iii. Princeton would pay \$1000 to become a member
 - iv. If Princeton finds resistance in wrking with the Racial Equity Toolkit (for example), they can use this organization as a channel to find other people who can help. It also helps the municipality to go into the direction they are going with regards to Racial Equity.
 - v. GARE is not just focused on municipalities, but also regionally – talking to neighbors to find solutions
 - vi. Councilwoman Fraga needs a brief statement from Tommy to approve it.
 - vii. Commissioner Di Domizio asked who would liaise with this organization.
 - viii. Commissioner Mann said it would be ad-hoc. Certain people from heads of departments could attend. They have to accept an application to advance you farther.
 - b. Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen asked for funding to translate the Racial Equity Toolkit in Spanish, and possibly translate for other immigrant communities as well. Councilwoman Fraga thinks Chair Parker is working with the administrator to finalize it. Councilwoman Fraga said that the municipality has staff or a service to do this. Commissioner Levy recommended a Princeton-located company called "In Lingua". Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen asked whether it can be a 2021 goal to translate important documents to a more diverse community of speakers in Princeton.
- X. Public Comment
 - a. Kim Dorman wanted to support the hard work put into developing the Racial Equity Toolkit. Sustainable Princeton uses it for their policies. There is a program on March 10th called "Going Beyond Climate Action and Equity" that others may be interested. Sustainable Princeton is conducting in partnership with the Princeton Public Library
 - i. Link: <https://princetonlibrary.libnet.info/event/4886095>
 - b. Wilma Solomon wanted to encourage the people to attend the Not In Our Town conversation on March 1st at 7:00 PM.
 - i. Continuing Conversations on Race - Exploring our Mission to Challenge White Supremacy

- ii. Link:
<https://princetonlibrary.libnet.info/events?l=Princeton%20Public%20Library>
- c. Kim Dorman asked about the status of enforcement of the Gender Neutral Bathroom ordinance.
 - i. Councilwoman Fraga said enforcement should be happening but she will follow up.
- d. Commissioner Miller wanted to note that the planning for the Bayard Rustin Center's Annual Pride Parade is starting, and they are looking for volunteers to help plan and organize.
- e. Commissioner Miller asked about CRC Office Hours and whether the Commission can look into holding them. Commissioner Maltby noted that the CRC used to have them in-person, but the community didn't attend them. Community Engagement Committee could look into it. Kim Dorman noted that Google meets were organized, with little to no participation. Councilwoman Fraga said the Municipality could promote such Office Hours if needed.
- f. Commissioner Miller asked if the CRC works with Solidaridad Princeton. Commissioner Mann is in the organization, but noted it has no formal connection with CRC. Solidaridad was formed around rapid-response of house/ home raids under the Trump Administration. Emphasis is now on helping people to fill out asylum forms. Alliance with New Sanctuary Coalition based in New York. Commissioner Miller wants to see how the CRC can amplify the organization's great work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Di Domizio, Secretary