

PRINCETON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 24th, 6:00 PM



Commissioner Attendees: Chair Tommy Parker, Vice Chair Anastasia Mann, Co-Secretary Nick Di Domizio, Co-Secretary Jean Durbin, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Lew Maltby, Surinder Sharma, Sherrod Smith, Fern Spruill

Liaison: Councilwoman Leticia Fraga

Members of the Public: Earlene Baumunk Cancilla, Mark Freda, Kani Ilangovan, Miki Mendelson, Linda Oppenheim, Joanne Parker, Afsheen Shamsi, Wilma Solomon, Larry Spruill

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM
- II. The October Minutes were approved.
- III. Chair Parker made opening remarks. The Chair acknowledged committees that have been working on a variety of topics so far: Racial Equity Impact Assessment, Affordable Housing, and Bill Strengthening Reentry Services in NJ
- IV. Commissioner Spruill reported on her subcommittee on financial coaching/counseling; next meeting Dec 11 (counseling; coaching; building credit)
- V. Commissioner Maltby reported on the status of Background Checks
 - A. Vice Chair Mann asked whether screeners are obligated to document the reasons why they turn applicants away. Commissioner Maltby said that gathering information is quite difficult.
 - B. Meeting with one of the founders of Albany civilian review board and former member of national assoc of civilian review boards; Michael Bradley
- VI. Commissioner Durbin reported on a Bill Strengthening Re-Entry Services in NJ. Commissioner Durbin reviewed the synopsis. Main points covered are as follows:
 - A. Re-entry of formerly incarcerated individuals to society and making sure they have the resources that they need
 - B. Medicaid and SNAP assistance
 - C. State and County can use mailing address of support centers in order for formerly incarcerated individuals in order for them to get benefits, as opposed to a residential mailing address

- D. Eliminates ban on Work First NJ (WFNJ) benefits for drug possession
- VII. Chair Parker said that one of the next steps would be for the committee to compose a letter of support for the Strengthening of Re-Entry Services Bill to gain public support.
- VIII. Commissioner Maltby reported on Civilian Review Boards. Commissioner Maltby noted that their committee is working on putting together a proposal. Michael Bradley serves on the committee and an expert on the Civilian Review Board.
- IX. Commissioner Sharma, Commissioner Durbin, Afsheen Shamsi and Linda Oppenheim presented the Racial Equity Impact Statement.
 - A. After the presentation ended, it was noted that the document will be formatted to have formal recommendations to the Council.
 - B. Vice Chair Mann asked whether the toolkit training should be mandatory
 - C. Commissioner Durbin used the toolkit against the Capital Debt and Surplus Policy as an example. Commissioner Durbin will share the example that she provided.
 - D. Council Liaison Fraga noted that the toolkit is not being used yet by the Municipality, but they are trying to apply it without formally completing it. She also noted that there are 2 council meetings in December, and the Commission should inform her to add it to the agenda.
 - E. The Racial Equity Impact Statement was motioned for approval by Commissioner Hernandez-Granzen and Seconded by Commissioner Spruill. The Commission unanimously approved it.
- X. Council Liaison Report: Outreach coordinator position; Nick on MEI we tentatively got 100%+; providing services for LGBTQ youth linked with the municipality....We also got a point from working with PSRC; more to brainstorm about how to formalize the connection with the municipality;
- XI. It was recommended by a few Commission members to add a Welcome, Roll-Call and Acknowledgement of Public members at the beginning of the agenda.
- XII. Public Comment
 - A. Linda Oppenheim contributed a public comment regarding adding an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement to the beginning of the meetings.
 - B. Wilma Solomon, NIOT—thanks for REIA toolkit

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

The next meeting of the CRC will be Tuesday, December 22nd at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Di Domizio, Secretary