

## **Human Relations Commission Meeting**

**February 17, 2022 | 6:30 P.M.**

**Via Zoom**

### **Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Kathleen Chalmers called the meeting to order with the following members of the commission in attendance: Charles Alfonso, David Devore, Kathleen Chalmers, James Henderson, Jennifer Wilityer and Matthew Wilityer. Also, in attendance was Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls. Donna Fann Boyle was absent.

**2. Approval of Minutes – January 20, 2022**

The minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting were approved on motion of Ms. Chalmers with a second from Mr. Devore. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Follow-up Discussion on Memo to Board of Supervisors regarding hate speech in Middletown Township**

Ms. Teoli Kuhls congratulated the members of the Commission on their success in receiving the Board of Supervisors support on the recommendation to conduct anti-bias and/or implicit bias training for all elected and appointed officials in Middletown Township. Ms. Teoli Kuhls reported that she will begin to work on obtaining quotes for this training in the coming month. The concept of conducting a community-wide training sometime in the summer was also discussed.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls also reported on the presentation that was made by Bernadette Hannah at the most recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors. It was noted that the presentation was well received by the board and was a good step in promoting the efforts of the HRC.

**4. Discussion of Memo to Board of Supervisors regarding Neshaminy School District Mascot**

Ms. Teoli Kuhls reported that the memo regarding Native imagery was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for review and consideration. There was general discussion among the group regarding the need for community education on this topic. It was agreed that the HRC should schedule a meeting with Board of Supervisors Chair Mike Ksiazek to advocate for support in this regard.

**5. New Business**

- a. Discussion of James Henderson Memo and Report on Township Activity

Ms. Teoli Kuhls provided an update on efforts made by Middletown Township to address physical barriers for open access for those of all abilities. She noted the continuation of the ADA accessible ramp program that is improving and installing curb ramps throughout the Township. She also noted access for the hearing-impaired at public meetings and accessibility improvements to the Township website.

Mr. Henderson then led discussion on his memo and the concept of, “being heard” as a disabled individual. Mr. Wilyer encouraged Mr. Henderson to focus his efforts and the subject matter of his memo to focus on Middletown Township.

Mr. Henderson noted that March is Disability Awareness Month. Ms. Teoli Kuhls agreed to collaborate with Mr. Henderson to create a Proclamation for the Board of Supervisors to consider at their upcoming meeting.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.