



ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Location: Zoom virtual meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84242584729?pwd=SFNZcThhelZ3RHVwL2g1WU9Ed3d4QT09>

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Meeting Type: Council on Human Rights Monthly Meeting

Attendees: ACHR members Ellen Parker, Stanley Estime, Mary Flaherty, Stephanie Gray, Steve Berdos, Barbara Clark, Laurie Sawyer, chairperson; Guests: State Representative James Hawkins, community members Katherine Lee and Shelley Stark

Business:

1. Chairperson Laurie Sawyer opened the meeting
 - a. First time using Zoom webinar
 - b. Welcome State Rep Jim Hawkins
2. Nominations for council positions
 - a. Barbara Clark nominated Laurie Sawyer for chairperson
 - b. Laurie Sawyer nominated Stephanie Gray for secretary
 - c. Laurie Sawyer nominated Mary Flaherty for social media coordinator
 - d. Motions passed - all nominations were voted on unanimously in favor
3. Reflection on Pride Flag Raising on June 6, 2020
 - a. There was a sound issue on the Facebook live stream of the event for individuals watching on their computers.
 - b. The DoubleACS video will be posted on Facebook once the council receives the digital file
4. BLM protests at Capron Park and APD
 - a. The protest organized by local high school students began at Capron Park but unexpectedly moved to the APD. Chief Heagney was asked by a protest leader to come outside to address the crowd, which he did. He condemned the murder of George Floyd and all of the officers at the scene, read Sir Robert Peel's 9 principles of policing to the crowd, took a knee, and encouraged those in the crowd to join law enforcement. The protest ended peacefully.

- b. Guest Katherine Lee told of her discovery that there are 3 current and 1 retired APD officers who consistently gave more citations to black and brown residents. The council plans to investigate this further.
 - c. Rep Hawkins shared the Black and Latino caucus's 10 point plan to address police violence and advance racial justice on the federal, state, and municipal levels.
 - d. Will establish Anti-Racism agenda with action items to investigate and address:
 - i. Police violence and reform right away
 - 1. body cameras
 - 2. training
 - 3. early warning for problem officers
 - 4. measure and monitor data of complaints of excessive force against officers
 - 5. etc
 - ii. Systemic racism issues over time
 - 1. education
 - 2. mandatory minimums
 - 3. immigration arrests/detainment
 - 4. etc
 - e. Motion passed to write a letter of concern to Mayor Heroux and Chief Heagney and invite them to a meeting with the council to discuss body cameras and a general order requiring officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force
 - i. cc: Attleboro City Council
 - ii. establish clear recommendations and request for deadline for meeting
 - f. Discussion of establishing an Anti-Racism Subcommittee
 - i. Guest Katherine Lee encouraged the council to begin work on the agenda without forming a subcommittee, as waiting could hinder productivity.
 - ii. The council decided to begin work and Laurie would investigate by-laws and whether forming a sub-committee would allow us to hold more frequent meetings on the subject.
5. Laurie cleared up confusion about council meetings as they relate to Zoom – contrary to previous information, Attleboro does not have a limit of 100 meetings and our council can meet monthly as we see fit.
 6. Though we normally do not meet over the summer, we decided to continue with monthly meetings due to the current critical moment and opportunity for anti-racism action.
 7. Stephanie created a folder on Google Drive for ACHR documents and shared it with members of the council.
 8. Tonight is Stanley Estime's last meeting, but he would like to be contacted to consult on council related matters in the future.

Action Items:

1. Write letter requesting meeting with mayor and police chief to discuss BLM movement

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30pm