

Gloucester Human Rights Commission
Minutes
April 26, 2021

1. Call to Order

Hannah Kimberley called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and stated that the meeting is recorded by audio and video in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

Roll Call

Present: Sarah Mitchell Peck; Toni Borge; Maiuzia Alves; Jennifer Beloff; Paul Wasserman; Hannah Kimberley
Absent: Nicole Richone Schoel

Also Present: Councilor Jen Holmgren, liaison to the City Council; Assistant General Councilor Krisna Basu and Human Resources Director Holly Dougwillo, city staff liaisons; guests: Gloucester Police Chief Officer Edward Conley and Lieutenant Jeremiah Nicastro; City Council member Val Gilman; Gail Seavey, 28 Chestnut Street, Apt. 1, Gloucester, member Gloucester Racial Justice Team.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Paul Wasserman and seconded by Hannah Kimberley the Minutes of March 22, 2021 were approved by roll call vote.

3. Gloucester Police Community Impact

Introduced by Councilor Jen Holmgren, Officers Conley and Nicastro described the Gloucester Police Department's efforts

to engage the community. Eighty seven percent of department officers were born and raised in Gloucester. The department has created an administrative structure designed to reach at risk populations with innovative problem solving while treating people with respect. Discussion included current fentanyl epidemic and extensive preventive efforts that department has successfully anticipated and provided in this area. Re: recent national increase in Asian American and Pacific Islanders racial crimes the department has seen no uptick in ethnic discrimination. Looking forward to surveys from Gloucester Racial Justice Team. Department has a designated Civil Rights Officer and now has full time mental health counselor. Working toward full police transparency and already nearly fully compliant with Police Reform Act. Has updated all policies with regard to de-escalation and dealing with dementia. As a model the department is now being invited to provide other countries with information on developing Community Impact programs.

Commission members expressed appreciation for and ongoing support of department efforts.

4. City Council Civility Resolution Update

Councilor Holmgren introduced Councilor Val Gilman who provide background on the draft City Council Resolution re: Civility of Elected Officials. She thanked Commission members for their comments and will provide this feedback to the City Council, which will work on a final version between now and their next meeting.

5. Disability Rights Commission

Members planned outreach to help generate applicants for the newly authorized Disability Rights Commission to include Good Morning Gloucester (Hannah Kimberley), newspaper (Toni Borge) and social media (Sarah Mitchell Peck.)

6. Gloucester 400

Commissioner Toni Borge offered to draft comments offering outreach to share with Gloucester 400.

7. Expansion of GHRC as of March 23, 2021

Outreach planned similar to #5 above to encourage additional applicants for newly expanded HRC membership.

Next HRC Meeting is May 17, 2021.

Commissioners Wasserman moved and Kimberley seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:00 PM and this was approved by roll call vote.

Submitted

Paul Wasserman