

## **Borough of Doylestown Human Relations Commission**

Date: June 24, 2020

Scheduled Time: 7:00PM

Via Zoon

### **Present:**

John Frazer, Maxine Katz, Linda Quinn, Nancy Reilly, and Doreen Stratton

### **Also Present:**

Mayor Ron Strouse, Noni West, Councilwoman, and Karyn Hyland, Director of Building and Zoning

There were no minutes from the previous meeting due to the pandemic.

Linda started the meeting by addressing Black Lives Matters and Covid-19. Maxine suggested the Human Relations Commission issue a statement on behalf of the Commission to the Community. The statement would address the Black Lives Matter movement and racism. Linda had commented that they could issue the statement via social media and then the Commission discussed what should be included in their statement. The Commission agreed.

Councilwoman Noni West asked that the Commission remind the Community if there are any issues within the Borough that the Human Relations Commission is available and suggested this be added to their statement.

Mayor Strouse relayed to the Commission that he had issued a statement to the residents and has done several action items such as meeting with leaders from the NAACP & County Officials to discuss proper and effective policing and what public accountability should look like.

Doreen Stratton offered to speak at any event to provide community education. Mayor Strouse asked Doreen if she would be willing to have a meeting between himself, Doreen and Donna Rhodes, Executive Director for the Doylestown Historical Society to discuss an educational plan as a project for the Human Relations Commission.

Maxine commented on the Interfaith Community and addressing race. The Doylestown Prayer Event was held in which most of Doylestown faith-based attended. They had about 10-12 members from the clergy and synagogue. Over 200 people attended via Zoom and said a prayer commenting it was a very powerful experience with many good messages.

Mayor Strouse questioned the Commission asking of any other ideas other than educational and faith based to discuss the education behind the African American Community. Linda suggested a virtual book club. The Mayor suggested the Commission reach out to the Central Bucks School Board Directors to get their support for racial education in the schools and to contact CB Cares to get their organization on board due to their overwhelming influence within the schools. John

had commented that Doreen would be an excellent individual to attend these educational programs.

Maxine suggested a letter to CB Cares from the Commission. The Mayor offered to pass along their contact information however the Commission would need to suggest what they would like help with whether it be through their essay contests or something else.

Councilwoman Noni West raised the question to the Commission if they would just be issuing a statement or a statement and providing details for Black History in Bucks County Community event they would like to host. Linda suggested a statement with event details to which the Commission agreed.

The Commission discussed coming up with an outline in time for the next HRC meeting. In addition, an update would be provided at the next meeting concerning the meeting to take place with the Doylestown Historical Society and the statement the HRC plans to release. It was agreed upon that the statement should be issued after the meeting takes place with the Doylestown Historical Society and Maxine and John will work together on drafting the HRC Statement.

Window Clings have been placed on pause and will be revisited at the next HRC meeting.

Nova Update: Concerning Bullying - the Commission agreed this is still a very real issue however it has been referred for a late time due to the current situation.

**Pride Month:**

The Pride Flag has been raised on the Borough Flag Pole for June 2020. The Mayor issued a Proclamation on that occasion. The Pride Flag was also flown on the County of Bucks flagpole. Lastly, a panel discussion took place at Delaware Valley University about the history of the Pride Flag over the years. They are still hoping to have a celebration in October.

**New Business:**

Councilwoman Noni West stated that the Human Relations Commission was primarily started because there is no current law in Pennsylvania to protect any individual from being fired for their sexual orientation and asked if the Commission would want to come up with ideas to address this issue.

A motion was made by Linda and seconded by Nancy to adjourn.

Adjourned: 8PM