

**Franklin Township Human
Relations Commission Meeting
Minutes of December 7, 2022**

Present: Halen Abera, Gary Rosenthal, Shubhendu Singh, Ron Poustchi, Stan Rozario

John Tibbs, , Quinlan Paris, Damianty Chivikula

Excused: Nora Catiis, Edna Arguello Hitchner, Alex Kharazi. Coucilman Ram Anbarasan,
Linda Montgomery Williams.

Absent: None.

Police Officer: Malcolm Belvin

Guest: Dr. Nick Solomon, Mr.Ammon Barksdale

Minutes of October 26, 2022 respectfully approved

Guest Report:

Mr Barksdale, Supervisor of the High School guidance department went over their goals and achievements that he is willing to achieve. He went into depth about his background and general work experience. Highlighting his role as Vice Principal and Franklin Township public schools. He added on the growth of the guidance department in Franklin Township schools. Went over the approach they take with college and career readiness in all grades starting in highschool. Mentioned the different activities and incentives they take to expose students to the college atmosphere and how to take on life after high school.

Pointed out the different options and speakers such as college advisors, military speakers, and others to add diversity to all the students in Franklin High School. Also mentioned how they ultimately want to expose students to different options after high school.

Mr. Barksdale also mentioned an EOS incentive that helps the Equal Opportunity Schools initiative, where the underrepresented population gets into more advanced classes. Shared that the background and environment of the students may affect their academics, and desensitize teachers to understand whom they are teaching. One of the major initiatives is Social and Emotional learning, that was useful prior to the pandemic and helped the student, teachers, and staff adjusting back into in-classroom teaching/learning. Addressed the trauma and sensitive behaviors of teachers and students and this program helps them tap into their well being and creates a non overwhelming environment for all involved.

Mentioned that Franklin High school had a 83% graduation rate.

Junior Commissioner Quinlan Paris added his experience being a sophomore at Franklin High School and his opinion on social emotional learning and how it affected him. The guidance department brings awareness as to exactly how difficult and stressed students, teachers and staff were during this time.

Dr. Solomon, High School Principal praised the guidance department for assisting the school with their transition from the pandemic and virtual learning and overall their approaches and goals when it comes to the general betterment of Franklin High School.

Commissioner Tibbs added his opinion on Franklin High School's graduation rate, and questions the other students left behind when it comes to graduation. Pointed out how the youth center was an area dedicated to at-risk students and asked how the guidance department may handle helping some children on a successful path. Shared his own personal experience with the Franklin Township youth.

Police Report:

Officer Belvin shared about the food distribution event and highlighted how police are working with amazon to drop off toys and how anyone can stop by and drop off toys and other essentials for children and adults. Pointed out on the 16th of December where children from neighboring communities can shop with the cop based on the financial status of their families and provide for families in need. Added on how the police department will go round the week of christmas and drive around potentially with a FTPD truck to different neighborhoods with santa and hand out gifts, presents, clothes to families. Shared their connection with the youth center and shared their involvement.

New Business:

Chairman mentioned expired terms of Commissioners Rosenthal, Williams, Poustchi, Rozario, and Singh, and in order to begin the process of renewing the terms for three years need to email to Township Clerk Ann Marie. Gary has a potential candidate to fill in for resigned committee member Venky. (Joseph F. Pete Clark). No current report on Local Health Assessment Program where Chairman and Junior Commissioner Abera are on the Steering Committee. January 16th is the annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast and hopefully there will be a good representation from the HRC. The Lt Governor is scheduled to speak.

The annual resolution required for approval for the 2023 meeting dates was passed unanimously.

(January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May none, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November none, December 6)

Meeting adjourned at 7: 49 PM EST.

Next meeting on January 25th, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Halen Abera & Quinlan Paris

Secretary and Junior Commissioner