

**Franklin Township Human
Relations Commission Meeting**

Minutes of January 25, 2023

Present: Halen Abera, Gary Rosenthal, Quinlan Paris, Damianty Chivikula, Linda

Montgomery-Williams, Ram Abarasan, Nora Catiis, Edna Aguilera

Excused: Stan Romario, Shubhendu Singh, John Tibbs, Pete Clark

Absent: Alex Kharazi, John Samba, Ron Poustchi

Police Officer: Officer Reid

Guests: Nicolas Dimeglio, Bill Grippo

Meeting called to order at 7:06 EST PM

Guest Report:

Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce attended to present to the rest of the councilship board. Brochures were handed out to extend the offer to join the FTCC, for businesses as well as students to come to conferences to promote Franklin Township prosperity and business. Gary introduces Nicolas Dimeglio and gives a brief summary of Mr. Dimeglio achievements and positions he currently holds right now. Ram also commented about how there are over 2000 businesses in Franklin Gary also introduces Bill Grippo and discusses how he was selected as Franklin Township's Man of the Year, and highlights his achievements in the Franklin Township Education system.

Nicolas Dimeglio shares he was asked to sit on the committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and shares his partnership with Bill Grippo and shares their tactics of networking and shares how they strove to grow the number of memberships within the Commerce. Bill Grippo also adds how he generated many relationships with the business community in Franklin Township, he shares his experiences previously with the chamber and other committees in the Township, as well as the general history of the Chamber. He shares that the Chamber of

Commerce was the “Living fiber of Franklin Township.” The Chamber was the “Backbone” and helped with bringing in business, he also adds how President Reagan visited Franklin Township due to this success. He also adds how they both would like to see the Chamber grow and achieve more, he highlights that the Chamber is to link business together and is not a fundraiser for school or charities. Dimeglio adds with “When the businesses thrive, the charities thrive”. He states how the Chamber will help grow other committees or issues around Franklin Township. How when businesses dry up, everyone in Franklin suffers. He shares that the Human Relations Committee can help the Chamber defend other businesses. He shares how he would like to include mix-use into Franklin and somewhat would like to replicate the buildings like New Brunswick. Mixed use makes better use of space and includes businesses to keep Franklin prosperous. They want to achieve business helping other businesses. Cannot just look decadent, as that helps no one, even if pushing for lobbying is unpopular. He comments on the YMCA project and emphasizes the importance of this project, larger than the Rutgers plaza project and continues to share that minority children do not achieve swimming lessons. He discussed possible locations for the YMCA and shared that it may end up on route 27. He shares that there must be funding from the state, the federal government, and other parties that could help with funding the YMCA. Adds that these are issues for the Chamber to deal with but would love the support from the Human Relation Committee to help encourage the building of the YMCA. Discussion over how the Commission can talk to the council about building another YMCA center. Dimeglio shares how the Youth Center is linked and is planning for some type of partnership. Junior Commissioner Quinlan Paris added on about personal experiences regarding the swim team and safety. Hillsborough shores has a QR code for businesses and others to join in the brochure.

Police Report:

Reid remarks that nothing has changed as for the part of Officer Blevin. Officer Reid adds the police departments volunteering with the youth in Franklin Township by playing basketball and encouraging them to play for their highschool or middle school teams. Adult police system academy for sometime in the spring 12-14 year old program to learn about the police department and keeping yourself safe. He encourages those to lock up your belongings, homes, and cars. Emphasizes the see something say something policy and adds how they would

like to act in the moment instead of later. He also shares and explains the police rotations and stations while on patrol around the community. Answers quotes the commissioners have about cars parking on the wrong side of the road, and reckless driving from bus drivers amongst the community and exactly what the police department is doing to prevent these incidents. Suggest reporting these incidents to the Board of Transportation and the Traffic Safety Bureau unit of the Police Department. Also goes into depth about the youth basketball league the police department provided and shares how they teach the children to workout and exercise and play basketball, and shares how they have built a community and unity by creating this program and how this has a positive effect on the children for their life skills and overall beneficial for the community.

New Business:

Gary congratulates Ram Abarasan for being elected deputy mayor of Franklin Township. Gary also introduces two new commissioners, Pete Clark , and Dr. John Samba. Gary highlights the terms of the commissioners whose terms have been renewed for another 2 years. Gary appoints the continued and vice chairmen to the committee. Edna Aguilera also accepts her reappointment as Vice chairmen alongside Gary Rosenthal.

Minutes of December 7th, 2022 respectfully approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 EST PM

Next Meeting February 22, 2023

Respectfully Submitted by Halen Abera & Quinlan Paris
Senior and Junior Human Relations Commissioners