

**Franklin Township Human
Relations Commission Meeting
Minutes of June 28th, 2023**

Present: Gary Rosenthal, Councilman Ram Ambarasam, Quinlan Paris, Pete Clark, Stan Rozario, Nora Catis,- John Tibbs, Shubhendu Singh, Alex Kharazi, Edna Arguello Hitchner, Linda Montgomery-Williams

Absent: Damianti Chivikula

Excused: E. Poutchi, John Samba

Police Officer: Malcom Blevins

Guest Speaker: Paul Walitsky

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gary Rosenthal at 7:04

Minutes of April 26th respectfully approved. —¶

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Police report: Malcom with Officer Reed and others on bikes alongside the parade on Juneteenth, and placed top 20 in the All American award, by the Franklin Township Police Department. 600 candidates went through the various assessments and 4 new officers graduated into the force, and will be starting soon. Justin Scott, one of two new trainers graduated from Franklin and is going to be out on the force soon. One of them graduated from the Camden county police academy, under Ram's wing. The force has also hired more diverse officers, and is working to hire more after some have left for other counties. Food distribution will be the first Wednesday of July, the 5th, at 935 Hamilton Street. Cooking with cops is a program that was just started last year. Working our with cops was suggested as a fundraiser. The citizens academy will start up in mid August. Unfortunately, the track runner that was in an accident now has passed away, and the police academy is going to work with the high school to teach more about driving to

prevent speeding accidents and work against inattentive driving. Solicitors were mentioned as well as how to deal with them. There is a link where you can register and solicitors can avoid you, however it is not a guarantee.

Guest Report: Paul Walitsky spoke about the new initiative for helping as the Environmental Commission on the climate and green action in Franklin. he spoke about new solar panels installations, as well as a green competition with awards for industries who are working on making their operations more green. Paul also spoke about getting more EV charging stations to promote electric vehicles, and spoke about rainwater collected. He and Ram spoke about sustainability elements with Princeton and that the commission of Hoboken, Saint Claire, and Franklin reached out to Colorado in order to gain exchange knowledge and experience. Edna asked about establishing community gardens with the development happening on Hamilton Street. Paul spoke about other community gardens that were already established, and was wholly open to inputs and suggestions. That they were also working on a school community garden. The highschool also has environmental programs and clubs. It was mentioned that there was going to be a new school that would run on solar power, as would the mosque nearby. It was also spoken about how a solar field was being created, however it would undermine the local nature in the acres of trees cut down. The environmental commission also works with the Stony Brook water services to perform cleanups.

Other Business: Alex reported on a new school which opened. The school is behind the mosque, and at 735 Cedar Grove Lane. It held its opening ceremony, with scholars, food, and speeches. The tuition of the school compared to Rutgers or other private institutions is less than $\frac{1}{3}$, with 7,500 USD per year. It teaches religious and academic schooling, however it is also open to non Muslims. It has a very good curriculum modeled off of Rutgers Prep. The private school construction was also aided by the town to comply with regulations as well as saving cost. Class sizes are also meant to be small, depending on those who are attending. There will also be another junior commissioner selected to replace the newly graduated junior commissioner Halen Abera.. The chamber of commerce resolution was tabled the empty storefronts and most notably K-Kart, however it was not thought of as a good idea. It was dropped. The issue is, there was nothing that materialized due to the debate on what the property should be. It was noted that this board does not have the jurisdiction over what should become of that part of the plaza, however the board does have concern over said storefronts and wishes for a solution for it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM . Respectively Quinlan Paris, Junior Commissioner . Next meeting

