

**Franklin Township Human**

**Relations Commission Meeting**

**Minutes of October 25th, 2023**

**Present:** John Tibbs, Gary Rosenthal, Rohan Kalidas, Alex Kharazi, Nora Catiis, John Samba, Quinlan Paris, Stan Rozario, Ron Poustchi, Pete Clark, Shubhendu Singh

**Excused:** Edna Arguello, Linda Williams Montgomery, Councilman Ram Anbarasan

**Absent:** Damianti Chivikula

**Police Officer:** Officer Marcello

**Guest:** Venky Sadagopan

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gary Rosenthal at 7:01 PM

The Chairman introduced new Junior Commissioner Rohan Kalidas who hopefully will be with us for two years.

Minutes of August 23rd approved.

Commissioner Kharazi opened the meeting as President of the Franklin Township Interfaith

Council with a prayer discussing the current ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza and that the

Franklin community must work together to promote unity. Alex spoke about the importance of new Youth Center and the want for people to share with their community in it. He spoke about the Diwali Festival the Township held and explained what the holiday represents as the message is to treat everyone with respect promoting unity. Alex reminded all about the Pledge below which was approved last year which John Tibbs reflected is to be put into not just anti bullying program but also enacted schoolwide. Motion approved to adopt. Here is the pledge regarding standing up for what is right and advises to live by. WHILE INTERACTING WITH MEMBERS OF MY OWN FAITH, OR ETHNIC, OR GENDER COMMUNITY , OR WITH OTHERS, IF I HEAR HATEFUL COMMENTS FROM ANYONE ABOUT MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER COMMUNITY, I PLEDGE TO STAND UP FOR THE OTHER AND SPEAK UP TO THE CHALLENGE BIGOTRY IN ANY FORM.

**Police Report:**

Officer Marcello reported that this Saturday and Sunday, there will be a trunk or treat festival at Confectionately Yours and a local supermarket from 12 to 3. This Saturday there will be a DEA drug take back from 12 to 2. On November 1st, there will be a food distribution at around 11 in the morning.

**Guest Report:**

Former commissioner Venky Sadagopa spoke on big bollywood films of the time which are directed for adults and are not child-friendly whatsoever. He was asked and took initiative to engage in the movie business. He pitched his idea to people across the country and got 16 people to invest in his idea. He created a child-friendly film with a minimal budget but the budget was not enough and the budget needed to be extended. Luckily, someone offered a large sum of money to contribute to the movie which helped to complete the film. The pandemic ended at this point which shifted the focus of the public in films. He was forced to release the film in theaters, and as the blockbuster movies take precedence over the independence films, it sat for 16 months unrated. However, it was eventually released theatrically. The movie opened to enough to make platforms interested, so it will be released on November 7th on amazon prime. The movie is called Shot Boot 3. It won the best film award in 4 countries, best feature film award, and two actors were awarded.

**Other Business:**

Gary also reflected on the untimely passing of Former HRC Commissioner Marilyn Altman as the HRC offered their condolences. Nora received an award for being a part of the buddhist temple for 4 years. Gary said that some commissioners will have their seats on the HRC board expire on December 31st , notably Edna, Alex, Nora, Tibbs, and Samba, and that they will need to inform if they would like to be renewed. One of the positions will be open from a resigning board member Damianti. Alex who is running for Town Council announced that the early voting will be starting on October 28th and ending on November 5th. Johnny Tibbs spoke on the eviction of families in the town.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

Next meeting on December 6th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary Quinlan Paris and Junior Commissioner Rohan Kalidas.