



**Human Relations Commission
Meeting Notes
December 20, 2021, 7:00 PM**

Zoom Virtual Meeting
West Orange NJ 07052

*Building Our Awareness. Engaging Our Community. Creating Change for Greater Inclusion.
West Orange Township Human Relations Commission*

This is to inform the general public that this meeting is being held in compliance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975. The annual notice was emailed to the Star Ledger and filed in the Township Clerk's office on November 17, 2020 and published in the West Orange Chronicle on December 10, 2020.

1. Call to order 7:04pm

HRC Attendance 2021

Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones, Commissioner Shannon Gattens, Commissioner Patrecia Westrecia West, Commissioner Liz Milhim, Commissioner Dawn Adams, Commissioner Joyce Harley

Volunteers: Robert Rashkes, Natacha Clesca, Lisa Batchelder, Peter Kolbe, Secretary Caroline Harris, Justin Goldsman, Maria Vera, Carl Brister

2. Commissioners Check-In - "Rose and Thorn of the Month"

- Commissioners shared their "rose and thorn of the month"

3. Acceptance of minutes of the last regular meeting of the Commission

- Commissioner Joyce Harley motions to approve, Commissioner Liz Milhim seconds, all in favor

3a. Acceptance and *(if necessary - discussion)* of Subcommittee Reports

- Subcommittee reports

- o Community Issues (Commissioner Patrecia West, Secretary Caroline Harris)

- Secretary Caroline Harris provided an update on collaboration with Carl Brister of Music Village and the Town Hall series on Love+Unity
- Commissioner Patrecia West provided an update on the "challenge" idea to get the community to commit to doing acts of Love+Unity and inclusion; e.g. 15 minutes per day/week
- Spotlight community members during Love+Unity "month" of celebration in May 2022
- Commissioner Shannon Gattens recommended choosing an "act" or "action" from many lists available throughout the internet, as opposed to making it a competition; Commissioners should commit to post an act; <https://www.perinatalqi.org/page/Anti-RacismChallenge>
- Commissioner Joyce Harley suggested making it a "challenge for oneself" and will send an example around to Commissioners
- Commissioner Dawn Adams/Commissioner Joyce Harley – February is Kindness month; perhaps kick it off then and have it culminate in May during Love+Unity month
- Next steps will be for the subcommittee to meet with Carl in January and present back details to the HRC; include Natacha and Lisa

4. Report - Chairperson Update

- Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones acknowledged the act of hatred against Rabbi Tobin's synagogue and denounced the incident
 - o Town and HRC issued statement of solidarity with the Jewish community
- Wished everyone a good holiday season and hopes we can gather again in the New Year

5. Old business

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Township Program, January 17, 2022 at 10am
 - o Chairperson Dr. David E. Jones provided a high-level rundown of the program
 - o Commissioners discussed and finalized award recipients and program logistics
 - Plan B if the entire event needs to be virtual
 - Commissioners motioned and voted to all approved in favor of the proposed award recipients
 - Commissioners motioned and voted to recommend a clergyperson to lead a prayer at the beginning of the program
- Kwanzaa Recognition Programs/Events
 - o Commissioner Joyce Harley provided an update on Kwanzaa display at the WO Public Library
 - o Flyer and statement to be printed for the display

7. Other/Public Comment

8. Executive Session (if necessary)

9. Adjournment at 8:56pm

10. **Future Meeting Dates:** January 24, February 28, March 28 – all at 7pm via zoom

~ Fostering good will, cooperation and conciliation among groups in the Community ~