

HANOVER TOWNSHIP DIVERISTY AND ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE
MINUTES of the MEETING
May 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Gino Martinez at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Amin Haider, Syed Haq, Ray Alvarez, Jeff Petros, Melissa Perez, Grecia Tures, Khaja Moinuddin, Trustee Martinez, and Trustee Camacho. Also, present Kristin Vana, Assistant Township Administrator; Hailey Matich, Administrative Assistant; Maja Stachnik, Community Affairs Intern; Paul Scott, NAACP Assistant Secretary.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Alvarez, seconded by Mr. Haider. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: None

Presentation from National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP): Mr. Scott is a member of the Committee on Law Enforcement for both the NAACP and Unity Partnership, two non-for-profit groups focused on improving the relationship between people of color and police. Mr. Scott provided a different perspective to the Task Force on policing and diversity related to policing. Mr. Scott explained that there is a disparity between the percentage of white and black people who are killed by the police related to their overall population, every year 1,000 people are killed by police overall, of those 600 are white and 250 are black. Black people make up 13.4% of the total population in the United States yet account for 25% of the people killed by police annually. Mr. Scott explained that studies have shown that there is a reaction to pull a trigger faster when a person of color is involved, this is due to various biases people may not even know they hold and a number of other factors. Mr. Scott made a point that the lack of diversity in police departments play a large role in the racial disparities related to policing. He explained that increasing diversity within police departments is important because without diversity, police departments lose perspective on how certain actions could impact a portion of their community. Mr. Scott also provided an overview of Illinois House Bill 3653, which is aimed to improve the overall criminal justice system. House Bill 3653 would standardize use of force, limit military equipment used by police, remove the requirement for sworn affidavits in the police complaint process and would allow anonymous complaints to be filed against a police officer, require all police officers to be wearing body cameras by 2025, require monthly crime and use of force reporting, and much more. Mr. Scott explained many police departments have pushed back against this bill because it would increase much of their day-to-day responsibilities in order to abide by the new oversight. However, Mr. Scott also explained that this bill is not just for protecting the public. Bill 3653 is also meant to protect the officers as it will ensure that rules of conducts are not being violated and should officers come under any scrutiny for their behavior there will be properly documented reports to better establish the truth of the situation. Both the NAACP and Unity Partnership are advocates for House Bill 3653.

Ms. Perez asked Mr. Scott what he thinks is missing from House Bill 3653. He explained that although it is a good bill, there is nothing in it about rehabilitation for people returning to communities from prisons and incentivizing them to not become repeat offenders.

Mr. Haq asked how Unity Partnership engages the community and police? Mr. Scott explained Unity Partnership meets with local law enforcement monthly, sponsors social events, and conduct seminars to promote conversations and relationships between law enforcement and communities.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2021: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Alvarez, seconded by Ms. Tures. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Review and Discuss Presentation from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP): Mr. Alvarez agreed that it is important to measure the performance of engagement activities and appreciated that Unity Partnership measured performance in order to identify disparities. Trustee Camacho agreed with a point made by Mr. Scott that communities also need to be more engaged with law enforcement so they can productively communicate their needs. Trustee Martinez agreed with Trustee Camacho and added that the Citizen Police Academies are an excellent opportunity to engage the police department.

Review and Discuss Diversity and Engagement Task Force Report Development: Assistant Administrator Vana reviewed the draft report with the Task Force and asked for their feedback. She asked that all the Task Force members review the report and email any additions they would like included. The next draft of the report will be presented to the Task Force members at the June meeting.

Other Business: None

Adjournment: Mr. Alvarez moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tures seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Vana
Assistant Township Administrator