

**City of Lambertville**  
Human Rights Council  
October 11, 2021, 7:30  
City Hall  
Minutes

**WELCOME / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Chairperson Todd-Marino, presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Roni Todd-Marino – Chairperson/Board of Education rep (RTM); Bruce Harris-Member/Secretary (BH); Lt. Bob Brown – City Police Dept rep (LTB); Ricardo Zapata – City Library rep (RZ)

Absent: David Gardiner – Member (DG); Julia Taylor – City Council rep (JT); Scott Elliott – Member (SE); Bambi Kuhl – City Public Assistance rep (BK)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 2021 minutes deferred to next meeting

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Todd-Marino read the Indigenous People's Day Land Acknowledgement.

***HURRICANE IDA STATUS AND REPORT***

Lt. Brown reported that Ms. Kuhl has been working tirelessly to assist those in need who suffered from Ida. Ricardo reported that NORWESCAP has not accepted any new case management clients. He's also reported that the YMCA and United Way are working with our Spanish speaking population via Gabriella Bonavent.

Challenges to housing include 40 families displaced, 44 housing units were lost in the Village Apartments. At the time of report, they had funding for housing for two weeks. There have been inquiries regarding use of Closson Property now owned by the City. In 2021 the Red Cross changed it's guidelines which now prevents temporary shelters. This makes the Closson Property non viable for use as a shelter. Currently, there is no immediate public housing available within Lambertville City limits. Lt Brown confirmed that all displaced families are sheltered at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Formal communication mechanism with trusted groups. The City successfully partnered with trusted groups to address community needs during Ida. Fisherman's Mark has hired

a new Case Manager who will meet with clients out of the Rago Building on Cherry Street. Food Pantry and Social Services Intake at the old Homestead Market happens between 9am and 5pm.

- Outreach Event with Fisherman's Mark. Ricardo indicated that they are moving forward with an event in November. This will also include a presentation on NJ's new rules for driver's licenses for undocumented peoples. Lt. Brown and the Mayor Elect will attend.
- Ordinance and Policy Review was presented by Secretary Harris. SE is to receive the guidelines and policy questions to be assigned to interns. This has all been moved to November.
- Alternate Crisis Response/Dispute Resolution- Discussed research of dispute resolution programs and training programs.
- Facebook Marketing presented by Chair Todd-Marino. Due to time restrictions of members, this has been on hold. Research has been assigned to BH.

#### ONLY TOGETHER WILL WE END RACISM

Chair Todd-Marino and Secretary Harris updated the Council on efforts.

- Timeline is now January 17th (MLK Day)
  - Events and programs - Chair Todd-Marino to approach Library and previous LHRC volunteers for MLK and We Are 1
  - Oral History Project - Secretary Harris has spoken to the Historical Society. Interview timeline to be set, with a goal of six stories by June 2022.

The year's Social Justice Class will be asked for feedback and an invitation to recruit student representatives to the HRC will be sent to High School Listserv.

Greater Lambertville Chamber of Commerce has agreed to participate so there will be follow up prior to ordering signs.

#### GENDER NEUTRAL BATHROOM SIGNS

Chair Todd-Marino shared that the price for the addition of braille is almost six times the original quote. It was confirmed that the exterior signs include braille, so we will move forward on the interior signs without braille.

CORRESPONDENCE PUBLIC COMMENT -- *none*

#### ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Todd-Marino seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.