

## BH TRHI Committee

Jan 31, 2022

7 PM

Angie opened call – starting agenda as below:

1. Election of officers for 2022
  - a. Chair & Vice-Chair – Kyle to consider; tabled to next meeting.
  - b. Secretary – Dennis accepted nomination

2. Introduction of new municipal prosecutor, Moshood Muftau  
13<sup>th</sup> year as municipal prosecutor – seeing increase in domestic & bias crimes  
Union; Liden; Rahway; Springfield & Fanwood (sub)

VP of NJ Municipal prosecutors Association- developed training w/in NJ cultural awareness in court. Discuss process within municipal level vs county level:  
Discussed listening to victim and role and process to determine course of action.

Committee members welcomed Moshood.

How do you look to engage w/ community & government in Berkeley Heights?  
1<sup>st</sup> two months to build/establish relationship within town; connect w/ police dept. and community on issues. Course or seminars to engage

\*reshare email to committee:

How to share/introduce Moshood to BH? – was mentioned within state of town address; board of education announcement (Angela Penna)

3. Ritu Chandra- Victim's Advocacy Discussion

How should information come in vs come out?  
Email from Ritu - completed

Ex. 1

- a) Police is looking to matter when reported; listening – Union County resources; learn about process; BH police did release statement to town council; TCHI – any information that is already public only.
- b) Mayor to release statement.

c) Updated lines of communication/resources is focused to victim

If no legal response: Education directed response & generate actions to fortify community to move forward. Create safe space to discuss within issues of community.

How to check/improve the process?

What resources/support for bias incident victims can be offered?

Level of anonymity to be established.

No Town council involvement for active issue under investigation.

Active case is sacred – no intervention from town government.

Need to establish process – 1) go to police department; Lt. Ed Gaffney to vet? (if need & when do they reach out to committee? 1) Legal route; 2)

Ex. 2

Union County – Project Direct – Victims' Rights administrator; setup literature at court house to info of resources (post on website – victims of bias crimes (Stephanie Jimenez(sp?); add contact info or add to PD site?)

Chief Massimino & Prosecutor

Appropriate response – 1) Need to follow legal process and be communicated to public  
2) what is the role of TCHI? How to communicate/how to action?

Ex. 3

Privacy –

Committee to act as a conduit to other active groups within the community.

Feedback into the court system? Actions on bias incident; Civic Plus (feedback system)?  
Do other towns have programs setup?

Crawl/Walk/Run – link people to Civic plus – place to start; & start to formalize process & have dialog –

Reminder/best practice for – township attorney (Alex) to reminder to navigate any active case.

How to report number of bias incidents by Chief: for 2021 – to be reported within annual summary; provides overview of what

Ritu Chandra – ad-hoc member to join for victim advocacy:

4. Black History Month Flag Raising, Town Hall, 2/5 @ 10 AM
  - Frank Bolden to do flag raising: To ask reps from BoE; Town Council; PD; Y; DC; acknowledge Town Committee for Black History Month.

- Fr. Kamalesh Church from Springfield Ave new rep

Rest of agenda tabled for next meeting. Ended at 8:13pm.

5. Multi-cultural Street Fair Event subcommittee report
6. Website tab
7. Sustainable New Jersey Diversity project
8. Updates from BHPD, BOE, YMCA, Faith based community
9. Other New Business
10. Adjourn: (next meeting 2/21 is school holiday—families may be away)