

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28 2008 MEETING
HISTORIC CONFERENCE ROOM, PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Gary Rosenthal, Chairman, Alvin Levine, Mylo Thompson, Det. Sean Hebbon, Marilyn Altman, Robert Stone, Willie Good, John Tibbs

ABSENT: Murray Rothblatt (excused), Nora Catiis (excused), Edna Arguello Hitchner, Ike Agudosi, Rebecca White Johnson, Councilman Rajiv Prasad, Liaison.

Chairman Gary Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

The minutes of the March 24th meeting were approved

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Gary reported that the Franklin Youth Initiative continues to be functioning very well and is very well represented by the HRC. The last meeting of the FYI held on April 7th was well attended and each committee (youth, outreach, social services, faith based, safety task, educational, recreational, business) gave a complete report. Gary reported that the immigration resolution will be discussed further this evening, and after contacting the Franklin Township Police, calls were received by Police Chief Craig Novick and Lt. Richard Grammar reflecting that they were quite familiar with the current directives. Gary reported that based on previous discussions, he has now written to Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management and Superintendent of the Board of Education, about the appointment to the HRC two high school students to become ex-officio members. No response has been received yet and follow up will continue. Gary announced that on May 1st at noon there will be a Community Prayer service held at the municipal building in connection with the 57th National Day of Prayer.

Det. Sean Hebbon gave a detailed report on the status of the Immigration policy of our Police Department, and assured all present that all the guidelines and directives were being adhered to. There has been sufficient training so the Police Department is well educated in this matter.

The meeting was then curtailed to allow sufficient time for the guest speaker to conduct her presentation.

Gary introduced Anna Cuqui Rivera, Project Manager for the Hispanic Directors Association of NJ and Coordinator of a Human Relations Group. Ms Rivera gave a very valuable presentation discussing most pertinent topics. There was a very good question and answer period. Some of the discussion included Franklin Township's Police Department being commended on their very reliable service to our community, which is quite diverse. Other Police departments in the area are not as well equipped (i.e.: the necessity of having qualified attorneys, racial profiling, immigration, incarceration, outreach, etc.)

As a result of Ms. Rivera's presentation, a motion was made by Mr. Levine and seconded by Mr. Tibbs to have the Franklin Township HRC in writing contact with the FYI Education Task Force to hold a Middle School program run by the HDAC (with Ms. Rivera) before the summer. A copy should be sent to the President of the Board of Education. Motion was passed unanimously.

Gary reported under Good and Welfare that Murray Rothblatt is ill and all wished Murray a speedy recovery.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting is on Monday June 23rd as there is no meeting in May due to Memorial Day.

Respectively submitted,

Gary Rosenthal, Chairman
Acting Secretary