

Franklin Township Human Relations Commission Meeting

Minutes of August 27, 2025

Present: Diya Patel, Pete Clark, Sharon Czebotar, Nora Catiis, Kamla J . Sharma, Councilman, Alex Kharazi, Samina Sattar, Elangkathir Elamaran, John Samba, Edna Arguello Hitchner, Gary Rosenthal, Ron **Poustchi**

Excused: Shubhendu Singh, Linda Montgomery Williams

Absent: John Tibbs

Guest: None

Police: Officer Matthew Russo

Meeting called to order at [7:02 pm]

Minutes of June 25 th and July 23rd Approved

Police Report:

National Night Out was a great success, and we are planning to improve it for next year. A car show is an upcoming event that will cause Davidson Avenue to close down. Franklin community connections are being implemented and ongoing, which is a smart watch that monitors loved ones for those who suffer from dementia and more. This allows loved ones to track and locate those who have the watch. If someone goes missing, sergeants have access to the

person's location to pinpoint the person's location only when they are lost. The watch has already been distributed to 4 families, and they are looking towards distributing more of these watches. Franklin Township is the first township in the county to implement an actual watch to monitor loved ones. Although there is a database available offering such services, no other township has a program specifically for creating smartwatches for this purpose. The smartwatch is completely free, including repairs.

Other Business:

Commissioner Shubhendu Singh, unfortunately, had a house fire, so he will be unable to attend HRC meetings for a while. Linda Williams, unfortunately, had a car accident, so she was unable to attend today's meeting. The HRC was well represented at a township meeting regarding taxes. According to Councilman Kharazi, when the tax numbers came out, many people were surprised by the sudden increase, so a town hall meeting was held. There was a full house at the meeting, and the mayor had a thorough presentation regarding the tax breakdown. In addition, there was a property assessor explaining the increase in property tax. There are many different sectors in which the taxes go, including the BOE, county, fire department, and more. The relative increase in taxes compared to last year was 2.6%, despite a larger increase in township expenses. According to the property assessor, the property tax increase is relative to how much equity your home gains. There is a spreadsheet compiled by the mayor that gives you a complete breakdown of your taxes if you enter your address. People were able to leave the town hall meeting with a thorough understanding of the reason behind the tax increase, and they understood which sectors their taxes went to. There was a fight to keep the tax increase as low as possible without hurting certain factors, such as students' educational funding. Some good things happening regarding

taxes are property tax relief for elderly citizens and people with an income below a certain ceiling.

There will be a proclamation regarding Suicide Prevention Month, which will fall in September.

The HRC has made some revisions to the old brochure, which was started in 2003-4. The brochure was distributed during National Night Out as well as Franklin Day. Creating a new brochure was about a 2-3 year process. The last brochure was approved in 2007, recognizing the need for a new brochure to distribute to the township. The new brochure can potentially be printed out at the high school. So far, there is a skeleton for the brochure, and there are some kinks that need to be worked out.

Regarding the flagpole and banner project, the cost will be around 250 dollars, but it varies based on the size of the banner. These banners would fly only during warm weather months. One of the things that was recommended was the facilitation of the collection of money from the families for each banner. In order to do this, there needs to be a bank account created. This project is aimed at early spring since banners cannot be held up during the fall and winter.

Meeting adjourned at **7:49 PM**

The next meeting will be on September 24

Respectively Submitted,

Elangkathir Elamaran and Diya Patel, Junior Commissioners