



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 18, 2020, 5:00-6:30 PM  
Remote participation**

Advisory Commission Members Present:

Alan Milsted (Chair), Kate Epperly, Wendy Bierwirth, Jeanne Morrison, Trish Oshman, Mwalim Morgan Peters, Katie Riconda, Paul Thompson.

Also Present:

Brian O'Malley (BC Assembly of Delegates liaison), Darlene Zerbe (guest), Susan Quinones (Coordinator), and Chief Frank Frederickson, Yarmouth Chief of Police and President of the Cape and Islands Police Chiefs Association (guest speaker).

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Alan Milsted called the meeting to order and Susan conducted a roll call @ 5:07 pm.

(Members Paul Thompson and Morgan Peters joined the meeting after the roll call). With a quorum present, Alan proceeded to the first item on the agenda. Susan reminded those present of the Open Meeting Law requirements for Remote Meetings.

2. Minutes of meeting held on April 20, 2020

Minutes from April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved as circulated.

3. Presentation by Chief Frank Frederickson

Alan Milsted welcomed Frank Frederickson, president of the Cape and Islands Police Chiefs Association which represents all the towns on the Cape plus Nantucket. Martha's Vineyard has their own association.

Chief Frederickson said they are constantly seeking community partnerships and have historically partnered with BHRAC. Therefore, he was pleased to have been invited back to talk to the Advisory Board.

He explained how things are being handled during the Covid-19 quarantine:

- Police station lobby doors are shut to the public and the station officers handle as much as possible over the phone. There is no public use of the building.
- Officers are quarantined from each other, as much as possible, so there will be backup if someone comes down with the virus.
- Officers cannot eat together or make reports in the same room.
- Cars are cleaned between shifts.

- Temperature is taken before officers come into the building.
- Roll call takes place on the computers.
- Masks are mandatory when the police get out of their cars. They might not use them in activities such as directing traffic.

Chief Frederickson explained that reaching out to Human Services has been a challenge as it is harder to reach people.

Domestic violence is up due to stress, mental health issues are other issues that may be exacerbated because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The police will attempt to get people services they need rather than take them into custody.

The compassion he sees in his officers has been impressive. They have become more caretakers than anything else.

Asked about Seniors the Chief advised are still being serviced by the local Senior Centers around Cape Cod.

Immigration is not an issue for local police, and they have no jurisdiction on ICE.

The impact of Off Cape visitors is a concern as we are a small community with only enough services to handle our own population during the pandemic, so it is important not to overwhelm the health care system. A **14-day** quarantine is required for out of state visitors.

Gun sales were shut down until required to reopen by court order the week prior. The Chief advised that most people who harm others with guns own them illegally. In Massachusetts legal gun owners can carry a handgun in open view.

Increased alcohol consumption has been noted.

Overdoses have been a little down due to the changed environment. Joe Drug dealer is not out there.

The Police Academy is currently shut down. Scheduled to reopen June 1<sup>st</sup>. In the interim they are trying to do on-line training.

Court cases are proceeding although courthouses are closed. Arraignments and restraining orders are being heard and managed by video or by phone.

Expiring permits for firearms, driver's licenses, and other license renewals, all have a grace period until June 30, 2020, in which they will be considered valid. By July 1, it is anticipated that State/County Offices will be open to handle license renewals.

Kate Epperly announced that No Place for Hate is circulating info on independence house to all pastors. The Active bystander training pilot will take place online. All Commission members will be invited to attend.

A BCHRAC member mentioned seeing an uptick in racist behavior with more confederate flag flying. The Chief said he had not seen any.

#### 4. Report from Working Groups:

##### a. Human Rights Academy:

Trish Oshman reported the Spring Cape Cod meeting had to be canceled. Instead a video was produced to announce that Amanda DaCruz won the Malcolm McDowell award. The first time that a student from Sturgis East won. There is a good chance that Sturgis will be willing to host the Academy in the Fall.

##### b. HR Awards Breakfast

Jeanne reported that no meeting has taken place since her the last report: Kate Epperly has offered her church as a possible site.

##### c. Strategic Plan and Intake/Complaints

Jean advised this is deferred until progress is made with the strategic planning. Everyone was asked to review the intake form. Dates will be set for the Committee to convene as a group.

##### d. Social Media

Wendy reported they have set up a system to relay Social Media items through Susan Quinones to Sonja for posting. Katie Riconda has taken charge of getting organizations to follow us on Social media to get our following numbers up. The committee needs to establish a hashtag. #HumanRightsCapeCod was suggested.

#### 4. Report from Human Rights Coordinator

Susan Quinones's report was submitted in writing.

She also advised that the Wampanoag statement was approved for our distribution by the Barnstable County Regional Commissioners. Brian O'Malley will be presenting a statement in support of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe as an agenda items for the 5/20/20 Assembly of Delegates meeting. Advisory member Mwalim provided Brian with a contact from the Wampanoag Nation to discuss all the issues and the compelling arguments in support. Brian does not expect it to be a controversial issue.

Susan asked for suggestions of future guest speakers at monthly meeting.

The question of rotating locations of HRAC meetings had been raised at a previous meeting. Alan Milsted suggested that Members consider, later, the benefits and disadvantages of meetings away from the central part of the County, for example, for Members facing longer journeys against increasing presence around the County.

#### 5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.