



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

POST OFFICE BOX 427

BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02630

508-375-6612

[www.barnstablecountyhrac.org](http://www.barnstablecountyhrac.org)

**Meeting Minutes, Monday, June 14, 2021**

**Remote participation**

**Advisory Commission Members Present:** Patricia Oshman (Chair), Kate Epperly, Wendy Bierwirth, Jeanne Morrison, Lynn Levine, Leo Blandford, Isaac Lopez, Jason Parrent, and Rick Draper.

**Also Present:** Susan Quinones (HRAC Coordinator), Brian O'Malley (AoD Liaison)  
Multiple members of the public for the Community Policing forum.

**Absent:** Mwalim Peters, Sheila Lyons (CC Liaison)

**Guest Speakers:** Chief Frank Frederickson, Yarmouth Police Department (YPD); Chief Matthew Sonnabend, Barnstable Police Department (BPD), Deputy Chief Jean Challies (BPD), and Officer and Community Resource Officer Brian Morrison (BPD).

1. **Call to Order:** Interim Chair Patricia Oshman (Trish), called the meeting to order @ 5:10 pm. The coordinator took the roll and declared that a quorum was present.
2. **Reminder of OML:** The coordinator reviewed the Open Meeting Law and that the meeting was being recorded.
3. **Approval of May 10<sup>th</sup> Minutes:**
  - Approval of the May 2021, minutes was postponed because members had submitted edits.
  - May minutes will be revised and submitted for approval at the next meeting.
4. **Farewell to Kate Epperly:** Trish, on behalf of the entire Board, thanked Kate for her leadership, commitment, and passion for Human rights during her years of service on the Board. Then Kate spoke briefly, encouraging members to continue the good work being done by the HRAC committees. She also asking everyone to donate to the BCHRAC to supplement the county budget to support activities, such as scholarship awards for Human Rights Academy participants. Kate also invited anyone visiting the D.C. area to reach out to her. She would love to see you.

- 5. Community Policing:** Trish introduced Advisory Member Jeanne Morrison as the moderator of the discussion on Community Policing. Jeanne introduced the guest speakers from the Yarmouth and Barnstable Police Departments.

Jeanne thanked the officers for their willingness to participating in this community policing discussion. Jeanne asked several questions regarding policing procedures and took questions from the public that were submitted in the chat.

Highlights of their answers are summarized below:

- Chief Sonnabend (BPD): The guiding principle for law enforcement is that it should be “equitable”. They provide de-escalation training to BPD officers to ensure fair and impartial treatment of all people in the County.
- As a Civil Service police force, BPD recruits take the civil service exam. The BPD encourages POC consider joining their PD by targeted outreach; Department has conducted outreach programs at the high school.
- Officer Morrison (BPD): As the Community Resource Officer, he specifically works with to the youth population to “humanize the badge”. He has been actively involved with community activities like “Kids Day” and “Unity Day”.
- Deputy Chief Jean Challies: When asked about the appropriateness of sending police in response to 911 calls dealing with domestic violence or a mental health issue, the deputy chief explained that BPD does have a dedicated units to deal with mental health issues, homelessness, mental health issues, etc. She noted however, if a call comes in after normal work hours, and specialized members are not available to answer a call, the police are dispatched to deal with the issue.
- Chief Frederickson (YPD): The YPD has embraced many of the recently adopted police reforms. The YPD has changed their policy regarding traffic stops. Officers are required to immediately call in announcing why the stop is taking place before they contact the driver. Then they are required to let the driver know exactly why they are being stopped, in advance of asking for the driver’s license and registration.
- When asked how they the YPD handles officers who are not a good fit and a source of multiple complaints, Chief Frederickson says they attempt to terminate them within their first year of employment.
- YPD investigates citizen complaints within 48 hours of being filed; however, the final resolution may take much longer because of fact-finding and union protections.
- There was a consensus among these PD’s that COVID-19 has made community outreach more difficult.
- Both departments would like to continue having moderated community forums to hear community concerns.

After thanking the police officers for their participation, an individual from NYC wanted to raise a personal incident involving a member of her family and the Barnstable PD. Jeanne mentioned that this was not a forum to address specific allegations of police misconduct. However, Jeanne

did allow the person a few minutes to explain her concerns, and then offered to reach out to her after the meeting to discuss further.

- 6. Coordinator's Report:** Susan introduced Jason Parrent and Rick Draper as the two new Advisory Members filling the vacated seats of Katie Riconda and Rev. Kate Epperly, respectively. (A more detailed bio of both is in the filed Coordinator's Report.)

Susan called on Leo to describe next steps, now that HRAC had supported the Wampanoag tribe's request to change the name of "Race Point Beach" to "Meeshaun Point Beach" in Provincetown. Leo reported that next steps would be to get petitions signed by residents to support the name change, and ultimately petition to U.S. National Parks Service for final approval.

Wendy was then called on to announce the 2021 Malcolm McDowell Award winners: High School Senior-Morgan (Zyg) Peters, and High School Junior-Angelica (Alex) Oshman.

- 7. Executive Session pursuant to MGL c.30A, sec. 21 (a)(1), (a) (7), and (a) (9):**  
There were no items for executive session.

- 8. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was passed unanimously @ 6:45 pm.

**Next meeting: TBA**