

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITIZENS SERVICES BUILDING

401 Sagner Ave.

Frederick, MD 21701

November 24, 2020 Meeting

- I. A virtual online meeting was held and called to order by Chair Mari Lee.
- II. The following members and others were present: Mari Lee, Lisa Clark, Annette Breiling, Francisco Alves, Roger Sobkowiak, Cindy Shubin, Lee Whisner, Greg Sember, Irene Packer-Halsey, and Desiree Tucker. Keith Merkey, Education and Outreach Associate with the Maryland commission on Civil Rights, Captain Dwight Sommers, Acting Chief of Police from the Frederick City Police Department and Human Relations Department staff members Pat Fleet and Miles Ward were also present.
- III. The minutes from the October meeting were approved with unanimous vote with a motion made by Lisa Clark and a second from Roger Sobkowiak
- IV. Captain Dwight Sommers went over staffing information they currently have 145 operational on the street staff. There are a number of individuals out for various reasons leaving him with 119 on duty. He spoke about vehicle theft being the number 1 crime at this time. Robberies are down. Opioid overdoses are at 82 but fatal overdoses are at 22. Captain Sommers also explained Executive Order 13929, issued on June 16, 2020 from the Office of the President, The safe policy for safe policing.
- V. Officers' reports

Overview of the Executive Committee – the members met 2 weeks ago to set the agenda.
- VI. Action Item MLK Day partnership with AmeriCorps the Day of service will be virtual this year. A donation of \$250.00 was requested to support the event. A motion was made by Lisa Clark and the 2nd was made by Greg Sember. If members want to participate more information about getting supplies will be available in the future.

Roger Sobkowiak and Greg Sember gave an update on the Hate has no Home here initiative. They had a conversation with Rick Weldon at the

Chamber of Commerce, he suggested that December 1 would be a good roll out date. However, he said our statement was not “Frederick” enough. Cindy Shubin has taken on the task up updating the statement. The plan is that Greg Sember and Roger Sobkowiak will go to businesses asking if they would be willing to hang the signs in their window. At the same time an e-blast will come out from the chamber.

Greg added that Rick suggested that we also reach out to the 11 municipalities within the county. Greg picked up the signs and is ready to start with the distribution. The 1st soft roll out will start with the initial signs with the county. Mari Lee asked that the persons going to the business meet to make sure they are sharing the same message. Also she would like to see the press release.

CRC – The forum is scheduled for December 8th. The details are still being worked out.

IRC – Cindy Shubin reported that the IRC has not been able to meet yet and hopefully they will have a report at the next meeting.

- VII. Jessica Fitzwater provided a video message to address the draft bill to create a Commission on Immigrant Affaires. She is sending out her latest draft to the HRC and ask that members send her any comments they have. Any comments sent will be on behalf of each individual so reply only to her with your comments.
- VIII. Mari Lee spoke about the results of the survey she sent out last week. She will send the report to all of the members to review.
- IX. Members that wished to made brief comments.
- X. The meeting was adjourned.

These minutes were prepared by the Human Relations Department.