

Hanover Township Diversity and Engagement Task Force
MINUTES of the MEETING
October 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eugene Martinez at 6:36 p.m.

Roll Call: Amin Haider, Syed Haq, Khurram Syed, Melissa Perez, Ray Alvarez, Grecia Tures, Trustee Moinuddin and Trustee Martinez. Also, present Kristin Vana, Assistant Township Administrator and Hailey Matich Administrative Assistant.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Alvarez, seconded by Ms. Perez. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: None

Presentation from Cook County Sheriff's Office: Director of Community Engagement Tisa Morris and Chief Marlon Parks offered a brief presentation on the overall responsibilities of the Cook County Sheriff's and how they prioritize diversity and engagement. The Cook County Sheriff's Office strives to build a bridge between their officers and the community. Director Morris and Chief Parks provided a map of the area that the Sheriff's Office serves, and explained that Cook County has a very diverse demographic. Director Morris and Chief Parks also gave an overview on how the Sheriff's Offices works to build relationships and engage the community. They explained these kinds of interactions help to decrease anger and fear that the public may feel towards officers. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office Human Resources Department has implemented robust 8-hour trainings on cultural diversity, implicit bias, de-escalation, and crisis intervention. Cook County Sheriff Officers must also work at least 1 year in either court services or Cook County Jail prior to joining the police department.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2020: Ms. Perez moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 9, 2020. Mr. Haider seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Review and Discuss Cook County Sheriff's Office Presentation: All Task Force members expressed they were impressed with the presentation and collectively agreed to ask the Sheriff's Office if the Task Force could provide them any assistance. Mr. Alvarez highlighted the importance of principles, engagement, and accountability, adding that body cams and audits can reinforce positive interactions between officers and the public. Ms. Perez suggested Hanover Township work with the Sheriff's Office to provide de-escalation training to the Township community.

Discussion of Task Force Meeting Schedule: Assistant Township Administrator Vana presented the upcoming Task Force Meeting Schedule. The Meeting Schedule was approved.

Other Business: None

Adjournment: Mr. Haq moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Haider seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Vana
Staff Liaison