

## **Abington Human Relations Commission Meeting**

**July 1, 2020**

In Attendance: Joanne Kleiner, Kristin Chapin, Jeffrey Browne, Rosemary Jenkins, Razinn Lewis

### AGENDA:

1. Discussion of BOSTOCK v. CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
2. Racial discrimination complaint received
3. Rally for Racial Justice, July 3
4. Facebook dialogue on racial justice

Joanne reviewed the major Supreme Court decision that came down. It greatly affects the HRC – under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Previously there was no legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Three cases came up to the Supreme Court. Reasoning is clear that it will extend to fair housing and public accommodation as well as employment. Under federal law it is now illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in employment. Things that are covered under federal law don't extend to everything under the state.

We received our first complaint. Employment complaint based on racial discrimination. Referred the case to the State HRC. They will probably send it back to us for mediation. A big portion will be time barred; some of the events are beyond the statute of limitations. There is one current complaint (hostile work environment) within the 180 days. Joanne to follow up with the complainant about the filing.

Rally for Racial Justice, July 3 at Crestmont Park – Andrea Sanders former Abington Township school board will be speaking. Abington Coalition for Peace organized this rally. Several HRC members will be in attendance.

Facebook Dialogue on racial justice – in hopes to start a community dialogue on Facebook since we cannot have meetings in person at this time. Share Jeffrey's statement and invite people to share their experiences. Kristin to draft an introductory statement for this effort.

Public interest – Amy Martin speaks about Abington for Peace – they are sponsoring and running the July 3<sup>rd</sup> rally in order to hear from the community and make some requests of the powers that be. This is not intended to be a one-time event.

As an HRC we are part of the Township; we are not the same as private groups. We can assist in community dialogues; have to be facilitators rather than advocates.

August meeting – aim to invite public to the meeting.

Next meeting – August 5, 2020 7:00PM