

Human Relations Commission Minutes: Oct. 7, 2020

Present: Kristin, Rosemary, Jeffrey, Razinn, Joanne, Shelley

Status of Complaint:

Kristin has called the complainant three times but has never heard back from the person. She has talked to the officer who took the complaint who said the ball is in the person's court. At this point, Jeffrey will draft a letter to the complainant so that we have written record of what we've done.

Status of Program with Abington Police on "Walking While Black":

Rosemary spoke with Chief Molloy once and is trying to get back in touch with him. The police department has purchased the movie and the Chief is open to doing a program with the HRC. Jeffrey reported that Commissioner Thompson wants to work on a program, as does Barbara Simmons of the Peace Center. We want to coordinate the conversation and make sure that all of these groups are working together. Jeffrey will be in touch with Thompson and Rosemary and Joanne will work with Chief Molloy.

This fits in with the interest expressed by members of the community after our community dialogue program during the summer in having a community dialogue specifically with the police department.

Conversation about "Walking While Black":

Jeffrey commented that the questions he would ask people are: What did you learn? What are you committed to doing so the things shown in the movie don't keep happening?

He gave examples of things he'd like to see happen in Abington: greater transparency in releasing data regarding traffic stops and arrests, identifying policies and data that exist and better ways to tell the story of what is happening in Abington. Perhaps the HRC can be a conduit for these things.

Tri-State:

Shelley reported on what Tri-State is working on. None of the current projects include anything on voter suppression, which Kristin thought they were going to approach. Shelley will ask Emil

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 4, 2020