

**City of Lambertville
Human Rights Council
7 PM Monday January 7th, 2019
Phillip J. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville, NJ
MINUTES**

WELCOME – John Woods, Chairperson. John Woods informed that we have complied with all public notice requirements.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - John Woods led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Fahl provided the Oath of Office to new member Leslie Darling.

ROLL CALL

Present: John Woods – Chairperson, Beth Asaro – City Council President, Lt. Bob Brown – Lambertville Police Force Liaison Representative, Roni Todd-Marino – Mayor’s Representative, Bambi Kuhl – Director of Public Assistance, Emily Carone – Library Representative, Beth Caruso - Resident.

Absent: Meagan Warner – South Hunterdon Regional School Board Member, Mary Jane Legere – Library Alternate.

Public/Visitor: Mayor Julia Fahl

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

- Expects budget proposal from our council as soon as possible.
- We should look to create programs or make contributions that would expand/improve Lambertville resident’s services.
- We should actively look for synergies between our council and the various boards and commissions throughout the city.
- In March, city-wide mailer will launch, every board & commission will submit a paragraph of current events, please be prepared to submit info

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of 12/10/18 meeting minutes – moved by Roni Todd-Marino, seconded by Beth Asaro, all in favor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Vice Chair – Bambi Kuhl
- Secretary – Beth Asaro

OLD BUSINESS

- Reminder regarding establishment of 5 Team Leaders to each focus on certain populations in the city, and the human rights concerns and issues which may be affecting them:
 - SENIORS: Bambi Kuhl with Emily Carone
 - IMMIGRANTS: Roni Todd-Marino with Beth Caruso
 - STUDENTS: Mary Jane Legere with Leslie Darling
 - MENTAL HEALTH: John Woods with Lt. Brown
 - LGBTQ+: Meagan Warner with Beth Asaro
- Reminder of recurring meeting schedule for 2019:
 - Monthly meetings – 2nd Mondays, starting in February.
- Team Leader Assignments due for today’s meeting:
 - Definition of the focus community – including resident volumes
 - Possible human rights issues/concerns/gaps for that focus community
 - 2-3 solid ideas on how to support in 2019 (taste, touch, feel, real)
 - Cost for us to support those 2-3 ideas in 2019
 - Partners in community that would be needed, or optimal, to have to support your focus community ideas/projects
- IMMIGRANT TEAM LEAD – RONI TODD-MARINO
 - Definition of the focus community – including resident volumes. Population 500-550 latino community (15%) in City.
 - Human Rights issues/concerns/gaps for that focus community. Landlord violations, notaro’s (false legal assistance), limited safety net services (no food stamps for undocumented population), health insurance due to change in possible/pending ‘public charge’ definition (when a person applies for naturalization if they have accessed services then they would not be considered for citizenship/strike against them), language barrier which includes lack of bilingual services in city hall, other city services, and access to immigration attorneys.
 - 2-3 solid ideas on how to support in 2019 (taste, touch, feel, real).
 - We Are One Lambertville picnic event (improving attendance/involvement of community).
 - Language Line, Transportation for affected groups. Mayor Fahl asked Beth Asaro to work with Cindy Ege to get bids on language translation lines for use by the city – evaluate costs and impact.

- IDs: Mayor Fahl asked Roni to consider and propose ways that the City of Lambertville can assist in promoting the Greater Hunterdon Community ID issued by Fisherman's Mark.
 - Cost to support those 2-3 ideas – assessment underway
 - Partners in community that would be needed, or optimal, to have to support your focus community ideas/projects. Roni is working on a local Fisherman's Mark residents board to include latino residents, and the goal is to have one of those members to join us as a consultant / resident partner to help us gain more traction in this community.
- MENTAL HEALTH TEAM LEAD – JOHN WOODS
 - Definition of the focus community – including overall affected/family/extended family/community resident volumes.
 - Assessment underway.
 - What are the generally accepted statistics nationally for the % of the population that have Mental Health/Substance Abuse issues?
 - What then are the statistics nationally for the extended family and community that is affected and involved with the directly affected community?
 - Human Rights issues/concerns/gaps for that focus community.
 - Develop a method to determine how people with Mental Health and Substance Abuse disorders are being treated within the community in various settings; i.e., housing, city government, merchants, residents.
 - 2-3 solid ideas on how to support in 2019 (taste, touch, feel, real)
 - Establish Lambertville as a STIGMA FREE ZONE. Involves bringing trainers/training to Lambertville. STIGMA FREE is a statewide group that has helped communities in NJ to achieve STIGMA FREE status. Target training community would be city employees, police, fire, rescue squad, greater OEM community, and interested City residents.
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has a 'Smarts for Advocacy' hands-on advocacy training program that helps people living with mental illness and their friends and family transform their passion and lived experience into skillful grassroots advocacy. Alex Zeng has undergone this training and is willing to provide the training for free.
 - Cost to support those 2-3 ideas
 - Assessment underway.
 - Partners in community that would be needed, or optimal, to have to support your focus community ideas/projects.
 - Assessment underway.

- SENIORS TEAM LEAD – BAMBI KUHL
 - Definition of the focus community – including resident volumes – assessment underway
 - Human Rights issues/concerns/gaps for that focus community – assessment underway
 - 2-3 solid ideas on how to support in 2019 (taste, touch, feel, real)
 - Cost to support those 2-3 ideas
 - Partners in community that would be needed, or optimal, to have to support your focus community ideas/projects
 - Mayor Fahl asked Bambi to think about an activity or event that would engage the ‘not at risk’ senior community. It’s possible that another commission or board within the city could partner with us to achieve – possibly Recreation Committee, and it could include offering community service hours to middle and high school students (partner with Mary Jane Legere).
- STUDENTS TEAM LEAD – MARY JANE LEGERE – NOT IN ATTENDANCE
- LGBTQ+ TEAM LEAD – MEAGAN WARNER – NOT IN ATTENDANCE

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL PERSONNEL

Leslie Darling has joined the LHRC.

NEW BUSINESS

We continue to look for a key resident of the local immigrant community to join and/or support the work of the Human Rights Council. Roni Todd-Marino is working to establish a resident board for Fisherman’s Mark and the goal is to pull in someone from that board to act as a consultant for the LHRC – preference will be a resident who is Spanish-speaking.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm with a motion made by Beth Asaro and seconded by John Woods. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED.