



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

MINUTES

Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Important Notice: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force – Public Safety Subcommittee** will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. All meetings and hearings listed in the agenda will also be done so through remote participation. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the town's website, at www.shrewsburyma.gov/coronavirus. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting. To listen to this meeting, dial [1 716-249-2832] and enter the following pin: [334-876-038#]. Please mute your device.

Minutes

Monday, January 4th, 2021 at 7:30pm held remotely via Google Meet

In Attendance:

Beth Casavant
Donna Jarrell
Elizabeth Hylton
Juan Acosta

Absent:

Kelly Joseph

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:30pm after all members (excluding absentee) where present

2. Open Discussion

A. Donna Jarrell began discussion by discussing some of the problem statements discussed in the previous meeting. One problem statement discussed was the need to create a positive relationship between Shrewsbury police and the community

- B. Members discussed other problem statements discussed on the previous sub-committee meeting such as race, danger, risk, suspicious person definition, and primary entry on police log being ‘suspicious person.’
- C. Members discussed some of their personal experience:
 - a. Juan Acosta – Being fairly new to town and understanding some of Donna Jarrell’s concerns
 - b. Donna Jarrell – Being a minority in town and some of her experiences in dealing with the police.
 - c. Elizabeth Hylton- Having negative experiences with Shrewsbury police
- D. Members discussed the collection of racial data by the Shrewsbury police department when they interact with the public.
- E. Members discussed the racial make-up of the police department, compared to the rest of the community, and how the civil service hiring model has prevented the increase of diversity in the police department, as stated by the police chief.
- F. Elizabeth Hylton mentioned in discussion there is a group working on issues relating to race and policing. The group is a Facebook group called ‘Better Shrewsbury’
- G. Donna Jarrell mentioned she wants to see more community involvement by the Shrewsbury police department, such as youth programs (sport league, etc).
- H. Juan Acosta asked the members if they are aware of a community liaison in the police department to address concerns from the community. The other members answered no.
- I. Juan Acosta asked a question whether there is a plan in place in the police department in the event an incident occurs that involves the use of deadly force and what steps would be take by the police department to address the community. Donna mentioned it is a conversation that would be worth having, such as a scenario exercise. Elizabeth mentioned a related issue is the response by the Shrewsbury police department to the death of George Floyd, which she felt was not strong enough.
- J. Members discussed plans for the next meeting. Members decided to first to have a meeting with ‘Better Shrewsbury’ to get their perspective on these issues.
- K. Elizabeth Hylton agreed to contact the group “Better Shrewsbury” to schedule a meeting with Public Safety Sub-Committee.

2. Agenda

Appointments to the following positions in the sub-committee were made-

Sub-committee chair: Donna Jarrell

Sub-committee co-chair: Elizabeth Hylton

Sub-committee clerk: Juan Acosta

3. Open Discussion

Members discussed the potential date for the next meeting, the week of January 17th to 23rd, excluding the holiday on January 18th.

4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Juan Acosta