



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

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

MINUTES

Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Important Notice: Pursuant to Senate Bill 2475 signed into law by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force – Public Safety** 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 [1 540-835-0258] and enter the following pin: [237 405 895#]. Please mute your device.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force Sub-Committee: Public Safety

Minutes

Monday, September 20th, 2021 at 7:35pm held remotely via Google Meet

In Attendance-

DEI Task Force Committee Members:

Juan Acosta
Kelly Joseph
Beth Casavant
Elizabeth Hylton

1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 7:35pm after majority of members were present.

2. Meeting Minutes:

Approval of meeting minutes for 6/14/2021.
Motion to approve submitted by Juan Acosta
Motion moved by Beth Casavant
Motion seconded by Kelly Joseph

3. Agenda items:

Agenda Item – Review draft report of recommendations

- Kelly provided review of changes to draft report as last discussed at the larger DEI committee meeting
- Beth provided comment to Kelly about finalizing the report and general edits. She also mentioned the ‘memorandum of understanding’ for the town’s SRO program, and how it may affect the potential process for the termination or amending of the program.
- Kelly made comment about keeping report as is, since we don’t expect swift elimination of the SRO program, instead it may be a process.
- Juan agreed with Kelly’s comment about keeping the SRO recommendation as is, with the understanding that there would be a process of review by stakeholders, such as the School Committee and Board of Selectmen.
- Beth made a comment as well, agreeing there would be a process and a standing DEI committee would potentially move the SRO recommendation forward.
- Kelly added additional comment about process of proposed recommendations.

Next item- Ranking recommendations

- Juan made comment that current ranking of #1 to #8 is fine.
- Beth stated the recommendation ranked #8 – ‘Data Collection’ should be #1 on the list, since that is one area where this committee continually hit a roadblock.
- Kelly made comment about placing ‘Data Collection’ at #1 and moving ‘Civil Service’ to #2 or #3 on the report, and also moving other items around.

Next item – Discussion of proposed civilian review board (CRB)

- Kelly stated she is not sure the recommending references provided by other committee members.
- Beth made comment wondering who would have power in the proposed CRB, specifically in the context of having a new review commission (P.O.S.T commission) at the state level. She also stated a concern about any affects the recommendations would have on the ‘change of work condition’ as outlined on the police union contract.
- Kelly suggested keeping the recommendation as it currently reads.
- Juan made comment about being in favor of CRB, but with changes.

- Elizabeth stated she is still in favor of the recommendation of the CRB.
- Kelly asked Beth about potential process regarding CRB recommendation.
- Beth addressed the question and discussed potential process issues.
- Elizabeth stated she is fine with moving forward with recommendation for CRB as currently written and stating she is fine with any hurdles that may be encountered in the process.
- Kelly also made comment about process for review of creating CRB. She will make change to written recommendation to add two items, relating to language of jurisdiction and powers of enforcement.
- Kelly gave a recap of the items discussed during meeting, to ensure Elizabeth was aware of discussion prior to her meeting arrival. She also made comment about not liking the template provided by DEI committee for formatting final report, and plans to work with the DEI chairs on the final report to ensure readability.
- Members agreed to keep the format of the existing report created by the public safety sub-committee.

Motion to adjourn – Juan Acosta

Motion moved – Beth Casavant

Motion seconded – Kelly Joseph

4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Juan Acosta