

## **Lakewood Community Relations Commission (LCRAC)**

September 10, 2020

Attendees (Virtual Meeting): Camille Bragg, Neil Chavan, Rachel Donaldson, Melissa Garrett, Tracy Greenberg, Gwendolyn Holden-Seckers, Jasany Jenkins, Anastasia (Stacy) Loejos, Lise Stevens, Ella Sutcliffe, Walter Wright

Absent: Tariq Ata, Robin Beavers, Jon Gromek

Meeting called to order by Walter Wright (WW), Chair of LCRAC at 6:38 p.m.

### 1. Welcome New Member

New member Camille Bragg (CB) welcomed by WW and the members in attendance.

### 2. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from August meeting: Although minutes were prepared and distributed, not everyone received and/or reviewed a copy of the minutes so approval was deferred to the next meeting.
- b. Status of 2019 Report to City Council: Lise Stevens (LS) spoke about current status of report which will feature commission highlights, member information, events, achievements, and goals. LS is trying to find the old notes and will email an updated PowerPoint file to commission members within the next week.
- c. Update on status of Youth Council: Melissa Garrett (MG) reported that the current focus of Youth Council continues to be the recruitment of new members. Applications are due on October 1, 2020. WW gave new members a brief summary of the Youth Council's history and purpose. CB has familiarity with the group as her daughter Olivia is one of the founding members.
- d. Covid-19 Update: MG reported that the City of Lakewood launched two rent relief programs in August. The first is a residential rent relief program that is retroactive from April 2020. The second program is a second round of small-business rent relief for up to \$7,000 in assistance to cover eligible payroll and rent expenses. Lakewood City Schools are operating remotely for the first nine weeks of the academic year. WW noted that the services offered by the public schools are exceeding his expectations and that city services appear to be intact. When WW voiced concerns over the projected impact of Covid-19 on the city's finances, MG noted that the City of Lakewood is faring better than other area communities.

### 3. Community Outreach Survey Status Report and Next Steps

Jon Gromek (JG) was absent from the meeting. Neil Chavan (NC) summarized the purpose of the survey for new members, explaining that the purpose is to try to get the perspective of minority members of the community and others whose perspectives may not be heard and also to assess the needs of various members within the community, especially as they are affected by the pandemic. The members working on the survey are developing strategies to gather this information with the intent of making recommendations to the mayor and members of city council. Stacy Loejos (AL) added that the methods of distribution are still being decided but that the survey will be accessible in paper and digital forms and will include availability at public places in the community, such as the library and other communal areas. Ella Sutcliffe (ES) was in touch with Amy Chodzin from H2O and received reassurance that the community service group's team of students could deliver the survey door-to-door. ES received help from management companies during her Census work and suggested that these management companies would possibly be willing to assist in the distribution of surveys to large residential apartment buildings. Tracy Greenberg (TG) reported that JG is scheduling a virtual meeting on September 17 for the subcommittee.

### 4. LCRAC Membership

- a. Welcome to New Member: CB told the commission more about her background and current work and the other members of the commission introduced themselves and shared some of their interests and reasons for serving on the commission.
- b. Open Position: WW opened nominations to fill the role of Secretary due to Gary Rick's departure from the commission. Nominations may be submitted via email to MG or in-person at the next meeting. TG nominated Gwendolyn Holden-Seckers (GHS), who is currently acting as Secretary until the position is filled. The vote will take place at the October 8, 2020 meeting.
- c. Member Information Worksheet: TG is preparing a questionnaire for internal use. The resulting document will allow members to understand the special interests of other members and better utilize resources. TG will forward information to LS for inclusion in the commission's annual report.
- d. LCRAC Member Engagement: To add items of discussion to the monthly agenda, members should submit requests to Vice-Chair TG no later than eight days before the next scheduled meeting. WW and TG prepare the agenda and then submit it to MG.

- e. Engagement with City Council and the Mayor: WW restated the purpose of the commission to act as a liaison between residents and elected officials. The scope is narrow but serves an important function for the community. MG will send all members an updated list of current LCRAC members.

## 5. Anti-Racism Task Force

- a. Letter from City Council and the Mayor: The city and the mayor authorized the creation of an Anti-Racism Task Force. WW asked Jasany Jenkins (JJ), the originator of the idea, to speak about its formation. JJ said that the purpose of the task force is to suggest and direct meaningful community action. The task force must be proactive and utilize and build upon available resources but also examine disparities or blind spots.
- b. LCRAC Review and Referral of Candidates: City Council asked LCRAC to review applicant submissions and narrow the current list of applicants to a pool of 15 potential task force members. City Council and the Mayor will appoint members selected from that pool. LCRAC members discussed selection criteria. JJ will send a detailed description and the proposed objectives of the task force to all members. Members will submit potential nominees via email to MG only with no outside discussion or deliberation of candidates. MG will combine submissions into a spreadsheet. A special meeting of LCRAC will be called within two weeks to discuss and determine final selections by the commission. WW thanked JJ for bringing LCRAC into the process and said that LCRAC may be able to provide other resources to assist the task force..

## 6. Adjournment

NC motioned to adjourn and WW seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

## Upcoming LCRAC Meetings:

October 8, 2020  
November 12, 2020  
December 16, 2020