

MINUTES
ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT

SPECIAL MEETING RETREAT
AUGUST 9, 2021

Present: Kirk Hart, Councilman Darnell Ford, Councilwoman Jeanette Blackwell, Councilman Phillip Pessina, Diana Martinez, Valerie Light, Kayon Morgan, Chair Sacha Armstrong-Crockett, Patricia Alston, Kristianna Smith, Precious Price, Councilman Edward Ford Jr., Stacey Barka

1. Call to Order.

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Public Comment.

No public in attendance. Councilman Darnell Ford closed the public comment.

3. New Business.

- A. Anti-Racism Task Force retreat and training facilitated by the Middletown Racial Justice Coalition – Facilitators Diana Martinez and Kristianna Smith began the meeting by explaining the mission of the Middletown Racial Justice Coalition for the BIPOC community. The meeting proceeded with a framework of introductions, meeting expectations and conversations pertaining to the mission of the Anti-Racism Task Force. Diana and Kristianna discussed the group agreements which would set some standards for the next 2 days of meetings. Diana spoke of staying engaged, speaking the truth, experiencing discomfort, and to both expect and accept non-closure of their topics and conversations. The second topic was about the definition of race and getting to know each other racially. It included a discussion of what the following words meant such as race, ethnicity, nationality, racism, anti-racism, non-racist versus anti-racist and systemic racism. The third topic was a conversation pertaining to the compass and examining how individuals enter into conversations on race. Diana stated that there are four quadrants on the compass that people can fall under which are believing, feeling, thinking and acting. Throughout the meeting, Anti-Racism Task Force members broke out into groups to discuss among themselves what was being presented. The final topic of discussion was reviewing pre-training surveys and examining local and national data pertaining to education, employment, housing and criminal justice.

4. Adjournment.

MOTION to adjourn made by Valerie Light. The MOTION was seconded by Councilman Edward Ford Jr. The MOTION passed unanimously. Councilman Phillip Pessina and Kirk Hart were not present for this MOTION. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.