

MINUTES  
ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE  
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT

SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2023

**Present: Ahmad Daniels, Bobbye Knoll Peterson, Reverend Robyn Anderson, Precious Price, Councilman Darnell Ford, Chair Sacha Armstrong-Crockett, Brian Gartner, John Cotten, Kirk Hart**

**1. Call to Order.**

Meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m. by Councilman Darnell Ford

**2. Public Comment.**

No comment from the Public

**3. New Business.**

1. **Community Building-Black Lives Matter Crosswalk**– the work has started over in the Wesleyan area. Artist, Enox Shabazz, is working directly with the company contracted by Rise Up. Crosswalk located in front of Neon Deli. Once completed, the crosswalk got wet from the rain that weekend it got very slippery posing a hazard to the drivers, Public Works had to pour sand down over the crosswalk, but then removed the sand the next morning. 4-way stop signs were also placed at the intersections for added safety. Discussion ensued.
2. **Community Building-Meeting with NAACP and future collaborations-** Chairwoman Sacha Armstrong-Crockett met with collaborators on a local level a few months ago who do the same work as the Anti-Racism Task Force. A question proposed to Chairwoman Armstrong-Crockett was how is the ARTF connecting with the community? Chairwoman Armstrong-Crockett was advised to come up with a strategic plan, and was given a name of a consultant to assist with that. Parties gave names who wanted to be on the task force, those names will be presented to the Mayor. Reverend Robyn Anderson agreed with the strategic plan and how to get the names to Chairwoman Armstrong-Crockett? Chairwoman Armstrong-Crockett said it would be best to get as many names as possible to create an interview panel through the ARTF, or devise an alternate plan. Discussion ensued.
3. **Criminal Justice-Update from Racial Profiling Forum-** took place the end of June and there was improvement in the data in the racial profiling report. Chairwoman Armstrong-Crockett would like to see people of color not be stopped for low level infractions. Improve community policing strategies in Middletown. National conferences discussing community policing. Precious Price speaks about how beneficial community policing is and how walking the beat is a great way to get to know your community. Discussion ensued.
4. **Overall Racial Climate-Discussion on Consultant for strategic plan-**looking for recommendations (names). Discussion ensued.

5. **Scheduling 2 day workshop with Kristina Smith from Via Arts**-workshop was recommended by the Middletown Racial Justice Coalition. Discussion regarding anti-racism workshop ensued.
  6. **Quarterly Report(s)**-Councilman Darnell Ford said the time for the quarterly report had pass, but he will gather the information and have the next quarterly report for the next quarter which will include the 2 quarterly reports that were missed. The reports will be presented to the Council after they are reviewed by the ARTF. The next quarter is in November.
  7. **Meeting in person/Hybrid in City Hall Room 208**-encourage more in-person or a different venue for meetings to also include more participation from the public. Discussion ensued over alternate venues for meetings.
  8. **Welcoming Ideas for Next Recommendations and Direction**-come up with a strategic plan, recommendations and ideas of what direction the ARTF is going. Discussion ensued.
  9. **Event and dates calendar**-black history month, Juneteenth, etc. Trying to get away from status quo by trying to do things differently. Events the ARTF can bring to Middletown.
4. **Other-Nothing added**
  5. **Adjournment.**

MOTION to adjourn made by Councilman Darnell Ford. The MOTION was seconded by Kirk Hart. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Ahmad Daniels interjected by inviting the members of the ARTF to his **Change the Narrative** event on the **first day of school**, August 31<sup>st</sup> prior to adjourning

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