



**City of Lambertville  
Human Rights Council  
7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 30, 2015  
City Hall, 18 York Street**

**Minutes**

**WELCOME** – John Woods, Chairperson. Mr. Woods called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. and welcomed the membership and public to the second meeting of the Lambertville Human Rights Council.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.**

Mr. Woods read the following statement of compliance into the record: This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and was noticed in the Democrat and the Times and posted on the City's website and Bulletin Board at City Hall.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Mr. Woods led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL.**

Mrs. Ege called the roll as follows:

*Present:* John Woods, Kari Osmond, Police Director Cocuzza, Public Assistance Director Kuhl, President – SHRS Dan Seiter, and Beth Caruso.

*Absent:* Council President Stegman, Councilwoman Asaro, and Lambertville Free Public Library Chairperson – Christine Miller.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Woods asked the members present to review the calendar provided by Mrs. Ege for the selection of the September and November meeting dates.

September date: September 29, 2015 at 7 PM at the Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center located at 25 South Union Street.

November dates: November 30, 2015 at 7 PM at the Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center located at 25 South Union Street.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

Police Department Policies and Procedures: Mr. Woods informed the members present that the following documentation was received by the Police Department and is in binders for public review: Profiling and Discriminatory Practices, Bias Incidents, and Attorney General of New Jersey, Amendment to Bias Incident Investigation Standards. This information has been posted to the City's website at [www.lambertvillenj.org](http://www.lambertvillenj.org). Mr.

Woods asked the members present to become familiar with this information for discussion at the September meeting.

*Results from Poll:*

Community Diversity Council of Hunterdon County – Council President Stegman – will be discussed at the September session.

Lawrence Township Human Relations Committee – Councilwoman Asaro – will be discussed at the September session.

West Windsor-Plainsboro H.S. Human Relations Council – Dan Seiter – Mr. Seiter reported that he was unable to reach a representative. He will continue to reach out to Anthony Flores for information.

Hamilton Township Human Relations Advisory Commission – Kari Osmond – Ms. Osmond reported that the phone number given to her isn't working and she isn't sure the commission exists. She reached out to a friend from the Hamilton area to obtain contact information. She also researched the Municipal Human Rights Campaign and brought three copies of their 2013 brochure. Information is also available online. Kari felt that this could help the Lambertville Human Rights Commission to formulate benchmarks to narrow the scope of the goals and objectives.

West Windsor Human Relations Committee – John Woods reported that he left messages for the West Windsor Human Relations Committee and will continue to reach out to them for information.

New Hope – Bambi Kuhl will reach out to New Hope to see if they have a Human Relations Commission and will ask the questions previously formulated by the committee.

Mrs. Ege suggested that in addition to phone numbers that they also obtain email addresses and try to connect with the groups through that venue.

The following is a list of questions for each person to ask:

1. What is your mission statement?
2. How and when was your council created?
3. How do you interact with the community?
4. How do you define the scope of your mission?
5. What has been your focus?
6. What have been your biggest success and/or failure?

*Googling Results.*

Mr. Woods asked if anyone had the opportunity to google Human Relations Commissions and if they did what results they obtained. Ms. Osmond reported that the ACLU was a great resource and they are familiar with immigration laws and the rights of undocumented individuals. She expanded on the issue and said that the immigration laws were supposed to be changed in April for the children born in the United States by undocumented individuals but because of a law suit filed by Texas, it was delayed. This has caused confusion. She mentioned a not for profit called Casa de Esperanza who could help with providing assistance in reaching out to the Latino group.

Mrs. Ege reported that she found the Human Rights Campaign and they have a good amount of information available to the public. In addition, she reported that she spoke with Hunterdon Helpline and they offer services to the Latino population and to seniors.

### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.**

John Woods informed the members present the Commission must follow the Open Public Meetings Act. Mrs. Ege commented that the newspapers were noticed and the agenda was posted on the city's website and on the Bulletin Board at City Hall. The approved minutes will also be posted to the City's website.

#### *Boundaries/Focus Areas.*

Mrs. Woods asked if the focus should be on finding services for those who are vulnerable. The following groups were identified by way of example:

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT);
- Latino;
- African American;
- Seniors;
- Mental Illness

The group discussed contacting the following groups for a seminar:

- Hunterdon County Health Board;
- Hunterdon County Senior Services/Adult Protection Services;
- ACLU;

John Woods summarized the discussion with two points of interest moving forward:

1. Strategies to help;
2. Educate ourselves;

He asked everyone to review the regulations provided by the Police Director for the September meeting.

All were asked to follow-up with their jurisdictions and to obtain the answers to the questions discussed at the April meeting.

The September meeting will devote 45 minutes to a review of the Police Department's Policies and Procedures and an additional 45 minutes on a presentation by the ACLU. This will help to develop strategies to communicate and build trust. He is hopeful we will have an action plan.

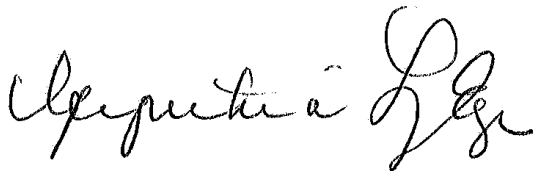
**CORRESPONDENCE** - none.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - none.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Cynthia L. Ege  
CMR, RMC, City Clerk

