



MINUTES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

7/16/26

ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1905

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present	Matilda Carvajal (Vice Chair) Leslie Brown (Treasurer) Marcia Almeida Madeline Gale Reubena Spence Kevin Pierre Ashley Few Hammad Rahman Madeline Guthrie Danielle Coon Jordan Stewart
Liaisons	Yvonne Bouknight (Board of Ed Designee) Alisha Dawkins (Staff Designee) Mayor Renee Baskerville (Councilperson Designee) Lt. Tyrone Williams (Staff Designee, Police)
Guests	Sol Demefack (former high school liaison)

Commissioners Absent	Ravi Srinivasan (Chair) Joni Cohen Matthew Frankel
Liaisons Absent	

Per Township website: There currently continue to be 4 open appointments: the Councilperson Designee (which the CRC has informed the Town Council should be Mayor Renee Baskerville, the Councilperson alternate designee, the MSU representative and the Staff Designee, which the CRC has informed the Town Council should be Alisha Dawkins).

Meeting notice was provided on [Meeting Dates Township of Montclair, NJ \(montclairnjusa.org\)](#) as well as filed with the Township Clerk. Civil Rights Commission activities also listed in Montclair Local (Internet only news site) with link to Township site for meeting dates: [Montclair Civil Rights Commission: Come Be Part of Change - Montclair Local](#).



Civil Rights Commission | 205 Claremont Ave | Montclair, NJ 07042 | tel: +1.973.307.0366 | civilrightscommission@montclairnjusa.org

[Public Comment Section]

[Public Session of CRC meeting]

Madeline Guthrie offered to record session/organize minutes

Madeline Gale took notes

[MAC Raw Notes]

5 new members - thanked Mayor Baskerville for her tireless effort in obtaining these appointments

Aug 30 volunteer

Madeline

Flyer and announcement

And information flyer

By Sol

Marcia explaining Backpack event

Spanish event as a result of current political climate/environment

National night out the August 4 - 5pm start

Lackawanna Station

4:30 start for volunteer

The back to school event August 30 Sunday - 9am

Wally Choice Community

Table cloth - Sol

Leonore - list of resources, programs as one pager for event?

ACTION ITEM,

LIKE, DISLIKE, COMMENT On Marcia's message re outreach

Permission re branding - utilizing town logo

Voting Rights Planning - offer to be a team to work on planning:



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Maddie Gale
Jordan
Leslie Brown

Panel to educate
Registering voters
District leaders -
Registering people to vote

ACTION - FIND OUT REGISTRATION DEADLINE - TUESDAY OCTOBER 13

League of women voters - consider for source
7 days prior to election - vote by mail
17 year olds
Everyone (ALL COMMISSIONERS) CHECK VOTER REGISTRATION

STUDENTS
INFO GRAPHIC TO GET THEM TO REGISTER IF GOING TO BE 18 before
NOVEMBER

Venue: 205 Claremont
Fill the place - Engagement

Jordan - looking into a potential panelist
3-5 panelist

Charge of the commission
Knock on doors, did you vote? Why? LT SUGGESTION
Social Media/ Polls/

Driving education as part of voter registration push for 17 year olds

Collaborate/organize to ask the questions
ACTION ITEM? Minivan APP for voting
Voting action plan
KYR



Lenore was emailing library re: Grant Money
Ideas - dedicated space for ESL
KY immigrant
Monthly, quarterly Initiatives in the library with the grant
Library conversation regarding the grant - Leonore personal

Bellclair incident

Government Initiatives - transparency/inclusivity
Bounced check
Department only had one person to talk to
Payments, fines, clerical
Seniors that may have had this problem,
Paying a bill
Suggested: Montclair website, FAQ
Recurring payments? (Not an option)
What the account number
Taxes bureau - 2 people
Township manager
How can someone avoid this issue.

Customer service/trouble shooting/ - tell the town manager
In short, community members should be made aware the town manager can be reached in the event of any issue encountered by constituents, as described above.

Meeting Opening and Minutes Adoption

CRC Operations and Event Representation

Action Items and Responsible Parties

Action Item	Responsible Party	Details & Next Steps

Police Meet-and-Greet (Backpack Event)	Marcia Almeida / Sol All commissioners	Marcia & Sol to finalize flier; obtain permission re:utilizing town logo Review and comment/thumbs up material on whatsapp
Voting Rights Event Planning	All Commissioners Maddie, Jordan, Leslie All Commissioners	Establish a point person, secure speakers (e.g., from the NJ Institute of Social Justice), and organize logistics for the tentative September 23rd voting rights forum. Planning committee Potential Panelists - Jordan Check voter registration! Registration deadline is 10/13
Know Your Rights Brochures	Commissioners	Review existing Township materials against the proposed bystander brochure and arrange to print Montclair-specific copies and Red Cards for distribution. Mayor Baskerville to advise on existing materials; Matthew Frankel to put together final

		brochure draft for CRC and Town Council to approve
Statewide Networking	Ravi Srinivasan	Send introductory notes to other New Jersey municipal CRCs to arrange a collaborative roundtable.
Charter Modernization Review	All Commissioners	Review the working Google Doc and add track-change edits regarding the proposed updates to the CRC ordinance before the July meeting.
Hate Incident Letter (Executive)	Ravi Srinivasan / Leslie Brown	Bellclair replied in June and requested meeting. CRC needs to respond to advise on when to meet; potentially at Sept meeting
Library Grant Initiative	Leonore Ravi All Commissioners	Draft letter to library re: potential grant initiatives Confirm/discuss CRC's involvement Comment and advise