

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES  
7:00pm THURSDAY MAY 20th, 2021

\* VIRTUAL MEETING \*

X	David Martin, Chair		Nathan Cookson, Clerk
X	Diane Randolph Jones, Vice Chair	X	Sunanda Pepalla
X	Leela Ramachandran		Nassra Mgeni
X	Sandra Hinds		Makena Muindi
X	Neha Saravanan (Associate)	X	Dawn Wang
	Julie Pierce Onos (Associate)	X	Charmaine Williams
X	Lingya Zhou (Associate)		Odeviz Soto

Called to order at 7:03

Regular Business

1. Notes from the chair

Special Business

2. Police Department Liason and other programs

- 43 officers in Acton (3 women, 1 Latina woman, 1 Portuguese man, 1 Black) and 1 clinician, recently received state accreditation, 3 most prevalent calls are mental health/substance
- Training: 9 hr. mental health/first aid training; 6 hr. fair & impartial policing training; 80% of department went through crisis intervention
- They refer out to Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) and Jail Diversion Program
- Will be posting a FT officer position soon
- Det. Mike Eracleo: (978) 929-7711 or [meracleo@actonma.gov](mailto:meracleo@actonma.gov); APD Business line: (978) 929-7711

3. Actions that we can take to address DEI in Acton – Neha

- Desire to engage in more tangible initiatives than current surveys, statements, etc.
- Perhaps reallocate funding from FT APD position that will be posted into a LICSW/clinician salary
- Encouraging town to utilize all resources possible; mention of Masters students interning with LICSW
- Dawn brought up legislation discussed at last meeting; perhaps outreach to ABRSD DEI Advisory Group

4. Plan for DEIC Select Board report

- Will likely have data from survey by our next meeting
- Engage in fluid conversation during the meeting to create general outline and ideas → individual(s) draft text of sections
- Look into town statistician as we look forward to analyzing data

## **Closing Items**

5. Approve minutes from previous meetings
  - Added “Associate” after Neha Saravanan’s name
  - Leela made motion, Dawn seconds; unanimously approved
6. Confirm future meetings and calendar events

7:00 THU 10 JUN meeting

7:00 THU 24 JUN meeting

7:00 THU 08 JULY meeting

7. Adjourn
  - Motion by Leela, Diane seconds; unanimously approved
  - Adjourned at 8:54 pm