

Rutherford Civil Rights Commission  
June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call

1. Steve Way, Rob Lyons, Matthew Cokeley, Renjith Pillai, Jessica Lezcano, Beverly Khan, Al Aguavivas, Sami Abuquad, Mike Szarek, and Sophia Masullo in attendance, with Eddy Rolon, Lauren Peluso, Scott Fontana, William Brennan, and Robert Kenney

Sunshine Law Read

Questions or Concerns Taken From Members of the Public – Response to Recent Protest

1. Scott: wanted to sit in on meeting and be a part of positive change given everything that's going on
2. William: was especially impressed with Officer Anderson at the protest, who was incredibly focused on supporting the community
3. Al added that he thought the protest was incredible; "This is Rutherford" streamed it online, he has already seen the positive impacts of the protest
4. Rob added that we should try to interview Jasmine, one of the women who organized the protest, over Zoom

Vote on New Vice-Chair

1. Steve introduced a motion to appoint Al as vice chair
2. Motion seconded by Beverly
3. All members were in favor

Online Presence – Facebook Page and Website

1. The Facebook page has made people more aware of what we do; Al suggested we should try to make it more interactive by possibly getting RHS students to coordinate our social media posts
  - a. Mike said he will see what he can do about possibly finding an intern from Felician to work on our online presence
2. Al: the old website should be scrapped (we have the domain name until 2022) because it almost solely focuses on the Multicultural Festival; we need a website which focuses on the other important work the Commission does

3. A new website could go into effect three weeks after getting access to the domain name; it would cost \$10 a year plus hosting fees
4. All members were in favor of setting up a website called [rutherfordcivilrights.org](http://rutherfordcivilrights.org)

#### Education Updates

1. Rob talked with Superintendent Hurley to find out about different clubs other than E.R.A.S.E. with which we can engage and find passionate students
2. Tierra Sherlock won the senior scholarship award

#### Plaque for Barbara Bennett

1. Plaque will be picked up on June 9<sup>th</sup>

#### New Events and Business

1. Interfaith vigil: the list of all the places of worship was obtained from the borough, each place was visited to find information, Mike will reach out to Councilwoman Maria about hosting all of the faith leaders for an event
2. Steve introduced the idea of a Zoom call on which the public can listen to a few notable speakers from Rutherford
3. Al: we are looking for suggestions of members from the black community to join the Commission or speak at a Zoom event
4. Bev: we can ask different members of the community a few questions and put the interviews on our website
5. Scott (member of the public) said it would be beneficial to hear about how Rutherford has failed to address racism, where it has been successful, and where it can grow

Meeting Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.