

A meeting of the **Civil Rights Task Force** for May 2022 was held tonight via web conference. Members in attendance were: Commissioner Ann Rappoport, Liza Meiris, Jake Marcus. Staff present: John Slavin, Acting Chief of Police; Lieutenant Andrew Snyder, and Human Resources Director, Heather Samuels.

1. Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.
2. The Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2022 were not able to be accepted due to not having a quorum.
3. Cheltenham Township Police Department 2021 Traffic Stop Presentation.

Lt. Snyder shared the CTPD 2021 Report on Traffic Stops. He explained the Police Department's goals are to be transparent with the community and to look at data and analyze if trends need intervention. He also explained that there are limitations to the data because it is difficult to know the true racial composition of the motoring public since 80% of the people stopped are driving through the township. Therefore, they compare the data to the crash data and race. Highlights to his presentation are:

- The total number of traffic stops was 1,097 for 2021, which was lower than previous years due to COVID. They usually have between 5,000 – 6,000 stops annually
- As of July 1st, they also started collecting if stops were due to equipment vs moving violation
 - 116 moving
 - 480 equipment
- Overall: Cited 20.6%, warned 79.4
- Broken down by Gender:
 - 63.3% of stops male, 36.7% female
 - Males were cited 21.8% of the time
 - Females were cited 18.6% of the time
- Broken down by Race
 - White – 21.3% of stops, 16.2% cited of the time
 - Black 64% of stops, 22% cited of the time
 - Hispanic 9.8% of stops, 22% cited of the time
 - All others: 4.9% of stops, 13% cited of the time
- Broken down by race and gender
 - White Male – 14.7% of stops, cited 20% of the time
 - White female – 6.7% of stops, cited 8.2% of the time
 - Black Male – 45.2% of stops, cited 23.2% of the time
 - Black Female – 25.4% of stops, cited 19.9% of the time
 - Hispanic Male – 7% of stops, cited 22.1% of the time
 - Hispanic Female – 2.7% of stops, cited 23.3% of the time
 - All others – 4.9% of stops, cited 18.5% of the time
- Report also includes:
 - Moving vs Equipment violations by gender and race
 - Daylight vs Darkness
 - Stops vs Crashes
 - Resident vs non-Resident
 - Stops by Year

Ms. Meiris mentioned that if you look at just the data for black males, they are 27% of crashes, but 45% of stops, and 56% of searches, which seems high and is higher than other races. Lt. Snyder explained that Black males were stopped at a higher rate, so numerically they would be more of the percentage of searches and that they aren't searched at a higher amount. If percentages trend higher for Black Males over next few years, they will have to intervene. Chief Slavin stated that this report is just one tool, but that supervisors and body cameras that the officers wear are also tools that they use, which would help them see if the same repetitive things are happening and they would intervene. This is also a much smaller sample than previous years.

Ms. Meiris asked that since there were much fewer traffic stops for 2021, should the police department continue with the lower number of traffic stops going forward. Chief Slavin explained that driving is more aggressive now due to lack of enforcement, including a higher volume of complaints of road rage. Ms. Rappoport stated that during the pandemic there were more complaints about aggressive driving and more stops going forward may be a positive thing. Ms. Marcus asked if it was possible to add age to the data going forward. Lt. Snyder explained that due to limitations with the software, they can't sort the traffic stop data by age of the driver, but he will suggest that as an upgrade to the vendor.

4. Anonymous Complaint Procedure:

Ms. Meiris asked what the process is for anonymous complaints against a police officer and that the current link on the website for complaints is broken and doesn't go anywhere. Chief Slavin explained that there is a tip line and the Police Department looks at each anonymous complaint and if there is merit, it will go to internal affairs. He stated that he is ok if we add an anonymous form to the website, but requested that there is also a form that the community can use in order to commend an officer. Lt. Snyder explained that the website transition is the reason for the broken link and will follow up on this. Ms. Rappoport suggested that the anonymous complaint form should be for all township departments, not just for police. She suggested that the form be expanded to include suggestions as well. Ms. Meiris expressed that she was worried that suggestions would lead to community raising concerns from other police departments on issues that are not taking place within the Township.

5. Breaking Bread Event:

Ms. Meiris asked if the Township will put the flyer on the Township website and social media. Chief Slavin explained that this is already in the works.

6. La Mott Community Center/Library:

Ms. Rappoport stated that she was at NAACP meeting and understands that the closures are inappropriately falling on those centers that need it the most. She explained when the community centers were first closed that she did try to find an alternative site until a more permanent solution was found, but those ideas failed, some due to handicap accessibility issues with the sites they took into consideration. The Board is not unanimous about how to approach it at this time but that the discussion will continue.

7. Update on Website Content:

Ms. Rappoport stated that the website continues to progress and is moving from the first set of input to cleaning up and finalizing the website design, so now is the time to provide any feedback from the committee. Ms. Marcus stated that it is important to make sure that the website is ADA compliant. Ms. Rappoport suggested that Salus be asked to review the website for input on ADA compliance. Ms. Marcus stated that there are standards that are already set that we should make sure we are following and she will forward them to Lauren Walter.

8. Old Business – None.

9. New Business – None.

10. Open Discussion – None.

11. Ms. Rappoport adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Heather Samuels