

7HRC Meeting 2/8/18
7pm-9pm

In Attendance: T. Getz, K. Shaw, K. Preftes, M. McQuillan, P. Blaiwas, S. Trieff, A Ibrahim
Guests: M. Murray – Newburyport PD Marshal
Clergy M. Willis-Goode
Student Reps: K. Goodkind, C. Walsh, R. Robinson, O. Davis, H. Kubat

Meeting called to order 7:02pm

I. 705p – Discussion with our invited guest City Marshal Mark Murray from the NPD

Marshal Murray was asked to discuss the differences between hate crimes and incidents. He stated that all reports of any hate incidents are investigated in the same way by NPD. If there is sufficient information to support that a crime was committed, the individual(s) can be charged.

DA is consulted and makes the final decision on what is prosecuted as a hate crime.

Mass Law Statute on hate crime (3 elements). MGL 265 sec 39

Intent seems to be a big part of incident versus crime. Also directed towards a particular individual supports a crime versus incident.

T. Getz asked if there was a local example of a hate incident or crime recently:

1. A few years ago: vandalism / slurs on tennis courts at Cashman (hate incident)
2. The Marshal was asked if any hate crimes have occurred in NBT. Once incident of vandalism of synagogue was described.

The Marshal was also asked regarding what is his biggest worry in this arena of hate incidents and crimes: Mainly hate incidents related to kids / social media.

The Marshal was also asked how incidents in the school are approached. There is a Memorandum of understanding between school, local police, and DA. The NPD has a presence in the school with the school resource officer (Officer Tierney). They are called in when needed and investigate. If investigation warrants any charges they will be filed.

K. Preftes asked about random license plate scans referring to an incident a few months ago when she and A. Ibrahim were driving back from Plum Island after passing out election literature and she was randomly pulled over by an officer who was behind her and ran her plate and found that her husband's drivers license had expired. The vehicle was registered to him.

The Marshal stated this was standard procedure and there are state statutes regarding this.

Often warrants will come up when random plates are run. He was asked about the staffing of the NPD: 31 total officers including Marshal Murray.

There was a question regarding communication plan / reporting:

Less people that know what is being investigated the better

Best to report anything that is concerning for a crime to the NPD - they can then pursue. This is most effective and just takes a phone call.

School resource officer is a good resource for school related issues

Statute of limitations on reporting hate crimes was discussed: unsure of the exact time frame.

We discussed our duty to inform the PD of incidents that we as a commission are notified about and what to do for example when a person states not to report what they are telling us to the PD. This is a judgement call – if involves safety etc.

We discussed that it is worth reporting small issues – racial slur in parking lot, hate verbiage that is overheard, etc. Can call PD and ask to have the incident logged.

Sanctuary City issue – put aside until “new council” seated. Build on what is already in place.

II. January minutes approved at 742pm

III. Planning / Check In's started at 745pm

Know Your Neighbor:

Met Saturday February 3rd at the Central Congregational Church to do a dry run with the camera/tripod/questions.

We determined that a more conversational format may be more effective rather than a question and answer format. We discussed that the interactions can be recorded in many different ways: can have the interviewer be in the shot or not, can be sitting or standing. Best not to alternate between sitting and standing. Some general principles were discussed:

- Write up basic function of camera as a reference guide
- Consistent sit or stand
- Need permission form (mission statement for the project on the release)
- Sign versus banner needed (sign probably most versatile – P. Blaiwas will work on this)
- Thursday 2/15 at Coffee Commune from 6-8pm live podcast with Pastor Matt Willis-Goode and Rabbi Benjamin Resnik
 - o Need permission form by then if we will be doing any recording
 - o Owen, A. Ibrahim, and S. Trieff can be there
 - o Can engage a few people to record if they are willing and we have the forms ready

- Other potential locations to film: Tannery, Market Square, Market Basket, Central Congregational Church, St Paul's Church, The Salvation Army, Kelleher Learning and Enrichment Center, Farmers Market, NYS after school program.
- We will start with three initial recording sites/ dates: Senior Center (M. McQuillan will ask about dates), Tannery Farmers Market March 4 or 18 – S. Trieff will ask David Hall), Central Congregational Church Breakfast March 10 – K Preftes will ask Chris Ney)
- Press Release / Article

Article Series

T. Getz spoke with Editor Richard Lodge who is on board with this idea. We envision a series or articles on a variety of topics relating to the mission of the HRC.

K. Preftes is in the process of writing an article

B. Blaiwas has written one

A. Ibrahim is willing to write one

R. Robinson is willing to write one as well. Asking about timing.

We discussed that weekly is likely too frequent. Perhaps every two weeks. P. Blaiwas mentioned that it would be good to have a few articles ready before we “go live” so that this will truly be a series. We also discussed that it likely makes a stronger statement if the articles are coming from the commission members and student reps directly.

Holocaust Series at the Firehouse (April Dates)

The HRC will be working with the Firehouse and Temple Ahavas Achim on this project. We will be helping to organize one of the evening panels. Potential panelists: Pastor Matt, Shawn Flaherty, Hannah Wilson, Beth Horne. M. McQuillan is willing to participate on one of the panels as well

Iftar

Likely date will be Wed May 23rd. K. Preftes will confirm with Mayor Holaday. The senior center is available that evening. We will use a similar format to last year's event.

Peace Prize:

Nominations will be gender neutral – There will be two prize winners from each category (each school and two adults).

Day of service:

Defer until after B. Horne meets with Clergy

Check IN

K. Preftes mentioned that B. Horne will be stepping down after completion of her current term. We now have two open positions on the commission.

P. Blaiwas signed up to be on the board for Hope for Homelessness

- A. Ibrahim mentioned a case of a transgender patient at a local hospital who had a very positive experience with her caregivers

The meeting was adjourned at 8.58pm