

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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Mayor John E. McCormac Announces Reestablishment of Woodbridge Township Human Rights Commission

Commission Sets Agenda to Promote Human Relations & Diversity

WOODBIDGE – Mayor John E. McCormac and Municipal Council President Lizbeth DeJesus, announced the appointment of seven well-respected Township residents to serve on the newly reactivated Woodbridge Human Rights Commission. The appointments follow the unanimous passage of Resolution #22 by the Municipal Council on June 23, 2020 which authorized the reorganization of the Woodbridge Human Rights Commission and the appointment of duly authorized members of the community to serve three-year terms.

“The Human Rights Commission serves as an independent body that will play a major role in our Township’s longstanding commitment to preserving and advancing human rights and in protecting those who may face discrimination in any form,” said Mayor McCormac. “I am proud to appoint these seven members to the Human Rights Commission – their backgrounds and experiences make them uniquely qualified to serve and they will make a real difference in the lives of our residents. Each appointed member of the Commission are venerated and respected members of their communities who have worked in coalition across diverse issue areas. I look forward to working with them as we continue to make the Woodbridge Human Rights Commission a venue for all.”

The Woodbridge Human Rights Commission, established via Municipal Ordinance on November 17, 1964 in the wake of the landmark federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, is charged with the responsibility to minimize the effects of conflict and to promote an appreciation of diversity through the elimination of biased incidents due to race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. To meet these goals, the Commission is tasked to review and consider a variety of initiatives and educational and cultural programs that promote global thinking, encourage civic awareness, and/or reflect the rich diversity found throughout the Township.

Meet the Woodbridge Human Rights Commission Members:

GLENN MORGAN, COMMISSION CHAIR:

Glenn Morgan, a life-long resident of the Colonia and Avenel sections of Woodbridge Township, has advocated for Civil Rights and Equality throughout his career. Glenn Morgan, the son of Woodbridge Civil Rights advocate Paula Morgan, experienced first-hand the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's when his mother joined Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the historic March on Washington on August 28, 1963. Following the March on Washington, Paula Morgan rededicated her commitment to the Woodbridge Township community with her appointment as Chairperson of the Woodbridge Human Rights Commission (November, 1964) and as a Commissioner on the Middlesex County Equal Opportunity Commission. Glenn Morgan participated as Co-Founder and Organizer of The Independent Club of Colonia and has served on numerous Community and Civic groups to advance Civil Rights and anti-discrimination initiatives.

PATRICIA OSBORNE:

Patricia Osborne, a life-long resident of the Iselin section of Woodbridge Township, served 14 years as an elected member of the Woodbridge Township Municipal Council (1996-2010) and two terms as Council President (2000 and 2006). Patricia Osborne, a career educator with the Woodbridge Township School District, began her educational journey as a Teacher of Social Studies (1964). Throughout her career, Patricia Osborne assumed greater responsibilities to include: Department Head-Social Studies; Curriculum Specialist, Science/Social Studies K-12; Service Learning Project Coordinator K-12; District Public Relations Coordinator; Character Education Coordinator K-12 until her retirement in 2003 as Supervisor of Social Studies and Guidance K-12. Throughout her career, Patricia Osborne served the Woodbridge Township community in many positions to include: Woodbridge Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO); Woodbridge Planning Board; Local Assistance Board; Environmental Commission; Iselin Special Improvement District; Middlesex County Mental Health Board; Coordinator for the JFK High School Voter Registration Initiative, among many other civic endeavors.

GARY TYRONE WHITE:

Gary White, a long-time resident of the Iselin section of Woodbridge Township, served eight years in the United States Marine Corps & Reserves and currently serves as Commandant of the United States Marine Corps League – Cpl. Kevin J. Reinhard Detachment #189. Following his USMC enlistment, Gary White attached to the United States Navy as a civilian employee specializing in shipboard damage control procedures. In 1996, Gary White embarked on a career path focused on transportation safety with Conrail, Norfolk Southern Railway Corp., Northeast Illinois Railroad Corp. (METRA) and the Federal Railroad Administration. Gary White has maintained community advocacy through involvement with numerous social and civic organizations.

CARRIE LOUER:

Carrie Louer is a highly passionate Certified ESL professional currently serving as a teacher at Lafayette Estates, School #25. She formerly served as Executive Director of Leadership and Culture with Cru City – Campus Crusade for Christ International in the United States. Carrie Louer began her journey with Cru as the Campus Director of Cru Columbus, Ohio and matriculated to Executive Director of Campus Field Ministries, Cru Orlando Florida, successfully developing curricula for 3,500 Cru employees and 60,000 Cru volunteers. Carrie Louer is married to Rev. Robert Louer, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel and resides in the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township.

KAUSAR NAWAZ:

Kausar Nawaz has accumulated over 18 years of experience as an Executive Officer with Citi Group, delivering data-driven business decision initiatives. Kausar Nawaz serves as Co-Chair of the Citi Peer Coaching Steering Committee and is a contributor to the Asian Heritage Committee at Citi where she mentors, challenges and supports fellow employees. Additionally, Kausar Nawaz advocates for the African American and LGBTQ Committee at Citi where she helps drive equal employment opportunities and address unconscious bias. Outside of Citi, Kausar Nawaz is a member of the Grace Hopper Women's Group and maintains a passion to build a truly diverse community based on social justice and ethical value. Kausar Nawaz is a resident of the Iselin section of Woodbridge Township.

JOHN PAPAGIANNAKIS:

John Papagiannakis has developed expertise as a Contracts Administrator Outreach Coordinator for Woodbridge-based Skanska Koch, Inc. and as a Licensed Realtor with JJ Elek Realty, Inc. located on Main Street in downtown Woodbridge. John Papagiannakis, a resident of Woodbridge, advocates for minority communities and maintains a liaison consultancy with the Avenel Performing Arts Center (APAC).

JENNY ROSADO:

Jenny Rosado, a resident of the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township and a member of the Woodbridge Housing Authority, maintains a full-time commitment as an Executive Member of the Rutgers's School of Social Work. Jenny Rosado is President and Co-Founder of David's Touch Foundation, created in 2009 in memory of her son – David - who lost his battle with congenital heart disease and lymphoma. As a result, Jenny Rosado has committed her life work to the David's Touch Foundation and as a fully-devoted volunteer Heart-to-Heart mentor with the Pediatric Cardiology Unit at Mount Sinai Children's Kravis Hospital. Jenny Rosado's continues to foster a commitment to anti-discrimination initiatives and equal rights for all members of society.

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