

**COMMISSION ON RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
STATUS REPORT – AUGUST 2, 2022**

The report and recommendations by the Commission on Racial Justice and Equity presented to Council in early February included recommendations involving the Police and Parks & Recreation Departments. A status report of such efforts as of August 2, 2022 is outlined below:

Police

Recommendation 1: Implement a Police Open House for Glastonbury residents, with informational sessions sponsored by the Glastonbury Police Department (GPD) to learn about the values and practices of the GPD, and increase communication between the community and GPD.

Action:

- The Police Department will offer a six-week police academy, (“Citizen’s Academy”), beginning this September. The program will begin in September with dates of September 15, 22, 29, and October 6, 13 and 20. All sessions will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center (RCC). Each weekly session will include a new topic covering a wide range of GPD activities. Officer Mike Magrey will be the primary Department representative and assisted by others throughout the six-week program.

Parks and Recreation

Recommendation 1: Expand communication of community and local government events/meetings and Parks and Recreation programming to all community members including residents of Welles Village and families of open choice students.

Recommendation 2: Seek opportunities to improve recreational facilities in all areas of town, including those in the Welles Village neighborhood with the intention of providing equal recreational opportunities in all areas of Glastonbury.

Actions:

- Adopted budget allocates monies for improved handicap accessibility to parks and athletic fields. Provides funding for pavilion-like structure at RCC for programs and activities for all ages. Budget also funds improvements to basketball courts and children’s playground at Welles Village. Grant application to be submitted to support these efforts. Pickleball courts at Riverfront Park will provide recreational opportunity for all ages. Handicap ramp installed at Youth and Family Services (Y&FS) to support access to outdoor programming and performances.
- Recreation activities this fall to include 3 on 3 basketball tournament and sport camps at Welles Village Park. Also to include pop up parks.
- Working to identify opportunity to expand community garden program to site in North Glastonbury. Continuing Welles Village activity council for youth through Y&FS.
- Placed Welcome Signs at parks and open spaces throughout Glastonbury confirming such open spaces are open to all. Included with various program publicity. Passport to Parks Program lists some 28 Town parks to explore, including Welles Park.
- Financial assistance provided to all those in need for participation in Town recreation activities.
- Youth and Family Services using a number of methods to publicize throughout the community of services of Y&FS. Flyers, email, signs, etc. These efforts will continue.
- Other initiatives include special needs programming, dial-a-ride transportation to activities/locations, etc.

Town staff throughout the organization will continue efforts in this regard along with ongoing Town operations.