



Lawrence Township, New Jersey

Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Meeting Agenda
Thursday, 2/25/2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Location: Via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8286791134?pwd=bjY1ekxMYThFdjFsc08vUTVkc25WZz09&omn=85824689613>

Meeting ID: 828 679 1134

Passcode: 3u0UcZ

Attendance:

Approve Minutes:

Old Business:

Council support of legislation at State level

Info on Immigration trust act:

Wording of State legislature bills:

[3672_11.PDF](#) [4987_11.PDF](#)

(both of these bills have been tied up in committee for more than a year)

Efforts by various groups to move the legislation forward:

[Immigrant Trust Act Fact Sheet \(11.2024\).pdf](#)

Council inaction on suggested resolution from us: (Paige remarks to Council)

Good evening Mayor and Council Members.

My name is Paige Johnson, and I am Chair of the Lawrence Township Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

I am here to speak regarding the letter and draft resolution on equitable treatment of all residents that the DEI Committee formally submitted to Council on October 23rd through the Township Clerk.

That resolution was developed in response to concerns we were hearing from residents, faith leaders, and community organizations about the national immigration climate and its local impact. Our goal was to reaffirm Lawrence Township's commitment to dignity, equal treatment, and trust, while remaining fully compliant with state and federal law and New Jersey Attorney General directives.

Since submitting that letter and resolution, the DEI Committee has not received any communication from Council regarding its review or status. We were therefore disappointed to learn indirectly that Council may be considering alternative, more expansive immigrant trust language without engaging the Committee that was asked to do this work.

To be clear, the DEI Committee supports strong protections for residents. Our concern is the lack of communication and collaboration. The Committee exists to advise Council and reflect community concerns, and that process works best when it is transparent and inclusive.

We respectfully ask for clarity on the status of the resolution we submitted and how Council intends to engage the DEI Committee as this work moves forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lawrence Township Council
Draft Resolution No. XXX-25
Equitable treatment of all residents

WHEREAS: Lawrence Township is committed to the equal, respectful and dignified treatment of all individuals; and,

WHEREAS: Lawrence Township is a diverse community which welcomes all of its residents regardless of their racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientation, gender identification, ability, economic status and lawful status within the United States; and,

WHEREAS: Lawrence Township strives to provide a welcoming space for all residents irrespective of their lawful status within the United States; and,

WHEREAS: All Township elected and appointed officials and its employees continue to strive to treat all persons in a polite and respectful manner in the performance of their Township related duties; and,

WHEREAS: The Township has an extensive record of fostering relationships of trust, respect and open communication with its residents; and,

WHEREAS: The Township wishes to affirm its commitment to the equitable and welcoming treatment of all persons within its community; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that:

FIRST: All Township officials and employees shall perform their lawful duties and provide services to all persons in an unconditional manner regardless of the person's lawful status within the United States.

SECOND: All Township officials and employees shall comply with the United States and New Jersey Constitutions, New Jersey Attorney General Directives and State non-discrimination laws, and shall take only the personal information necessary for requested service regardless of their racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientation, gender identification, ability, economic status and lawful status within the United States; and,

THIRD: The Lawrence Township Police Department shall continue to follow its General Order Number 3.39 entitles "Enforcement of Immigration Laws," and shall also continue to comply with any and all of the directives and guidelines of the New Jersey Attorney General in the performance of their sworn duties as law enforcement officers.

FOURTH: Nothing in this Resolutions shall be construed or implemented to conflict with any obligation imposed by Federal or State statutes, applicable regulations and directive of the New Jersey Attorney General and the Mercer County Prosecutor.

FIFTH: The governing body of the Township of Lawrence hereby join with a growing number of municipalities and organizations in standing up to threats against privacy and liberties by taking meaningful steps to ensure that communities are safe and that the rights of all residents are respected.

SIXTH: Within seven days after passage of this Resolution, the Township Manager shall distribute this Resolution to all Township employees and officials within ninety days and shall incorporate the principals of this Resolution into continuing employee development.

New Business:

Reorganization of committee for 2026

Public Participation:

Adjournment Next Meeting: Thursday 3/19/2026 at Via Zoom