

Instructions for How to Attend the August 25, 2020 Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover

TO JOIN MEETING VIA PHONE

PHONE NUMBER: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 920 6166 8018

Passcode: 369962

TO JOIN MEETING VIA COMPUTER

<https://zoom.us/j/92061668018?pwd=T1U0NldUbExPSVhkUGNrNzJGTVIHdz09>

Meeting ID: 920 6166 8018

Passcode: 4zF4z9



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ELECTRONIC MEETING August 25, 2020 7:00 P.M.

A) CALL MEETING TO ORDER / SUNSHINE STATEMENT – Mayor Carolyn Blackman to call meeting to order and read the Sunshine Statement:

“This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the Sunshine Law, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. Notice of the meeting was sent to the Daily Record and Star Ledger on August 19, 2020. Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board in Town Hall.”

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Carolyn Blackman to lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

C) ROLL CALL – Acting Municipal Clerk to Conduct Roll Call:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Alderman Correa			
Alderman Tapia			
Alderman Ballesteros			
Alderwoman Rugg			
Alderwoman Cruz			
Alderman Valencia			
Alderman Quinones			
Alderwoman Wittner			
Mayor Blackman			

D) ORDINANCES - INTRODUCTION

1) Ord. 20-2020 – Ordinance of the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Creating a New Chapter of the Code of the Town of Dover entitled the Open Government – Transparency and Participation Act.

Introduction of Ord. 20-2020

	A.M. Correa	A.M. Tapia	A.M. Ballesteros	A.M. Rugg	A.M. Cruz	A.M. Valencia	A.M. Quinones	A.M. Wittner	Mayor Blackman
Motion									
Second									
Yes									
No									
Abstain									

E) Resolutions

1) CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

- 1) Res. 207-2020 – Resolution Declaring Institutional and Structural Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Appointing Aldermen to Lead the Racial Equity Initiative
- 2) Res. 208-2020 – Resolution Launching the I Love Dover Campaign

Resolutions – 207-208 2020

	A.M. Correa	A.M. Tapia	A.M. Ballesteros	A.M. Rugg	A.M. Cruz	A.M. Valencia	A.M. Quinones	A.M. Wittner	Mayor Blackman
Motion									
Second									
Yes									
No									
Abstain									

2) RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

F) PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Town of Dover highly values the input of residents in making important decisions that affect the residents of our community. We also believe in the rights of residents to observe Governing Body Meetings. To ensure that all of our residents have the opportunity to attend our Meetings and offer comment, and to ensure that the Governing Body can conduct the important business of the Town, we ask that speakers follow these guidelines for making public comments.

Please respect the following procedures:

1. The Mayor will recognize those individuals in the audience who wish to make comment.
2. All members of the public attending Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meetings must treat each other and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen with respect.
3. State your full name and address for the record.
4. Please limit your comments to five (5) minutes.
5. If you have a question that we are unable to answer at the Meeting, feel free to submit your questions to the Town Clerk and/or Town Administrator, in writing, and include your name, address and telephone number where you can be contacted. The email address of the Clerk is jschmidt@dover.nj.us and the email of the Administrator is consanchez@dover.nj.us. Your questions will be answered within a reasonable time.
6. Individuals offering comments are not permitted to make personal attacks on any Town Employees, the Mayor or any Member of Town Government, other testifiers or members of the public.

ADJOURNMENT



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ORDINANCE No. 20-2020

ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF DOVER CREATING THE OPEN GOVERNMENT- TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION ACT

SYNOPSIS

“The Open Government – Transparency and Participation Act,” provides the guidelines to increase open government, transparency, and community collaboration in the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey.

BE IT ENACTED by the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the
“Open Government- Transparency and Participation Act”

WHEREAS, in 1991, the New Jersey Supreme Court confirmed, in *South Jersey Pub. Co., Inc. v. N.J. Expressway Auth.*, 124, N.J. 478, 491-92, that:

Governmental secrecy shrouds corruption and engenders public distrust in government and its officials. Whether dishonesty does, or does not, exist is irrelevant. The important factor is that "secrecy" creates a belief that it exists which, if extensive enough, could destroy needed public support for government action. * The sole method of combating these notions is to demonstrate their falsity by opening the doors of government so that the truth may be viewed by all.

Quoting Kugler, *New Jersey's Right to Know: A Report on Open Government* 175 (1974).

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen find that good government depends on knowledgeable citizens who have broad access to government meetings and who have ready and inexpensive access to a wide range of government information. Such access enables them to participate fully in public affairs, help determine governmental priorities and to hold their public officials accountable; and

WHEREAS, Transparency promotes accountability and provides information maintained by the Local Government for citizens about what their Government, including their elected and appointed representatives, are doing; and

WHEREAS, public officials and town employees must, therefore, avoid conduct which is in violation of their public trust or which creates a justifiable impression among the public that such trust is being violated via potential, perceived or real conflict of interests; and

WHEREAS, the residents have the right to know how their tax money is allocated and utilized and the potential conflict of interests of their public officials and town employees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the “Code of the Town of Dover” is hereby amended and supplemented by the addition of a new Chapter, entitled “Open Government- Transparency and Participation Act,” pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:49-4 (Codification of Ordinances) as follows:

OPEN GOVERNMENT-TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION ACT

§ 1-1 Definitions

The words and phrases defined in this Section shall, for the purpose of this Ordinance, have the meanings specified below:

A. Town

It means the Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey.

B. Board of Aldermen

It means all members of the principal Public Body of the Town as described in the Town’s Code.

C. Public Body

Any of the following: All governing bodies of the Town, including but not limited to, the Board of Aldermen, Board of Health, Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Library Board of Trustees, Redevelopment Agency, Housing Authority, and Water Commission.

D. Community

Any groups or individuals who live in the Town of Dover and are not elected officials, appointed officials, staff or contractors.

E. New Media

The technological tools which can be utilized to publish documents, any type of digital media, and/or interact with the community.

F. Relative

It means an individual’s spouse/domestic partner/civil union partner or the individual or spouse’s/domestic partner’s/civil union partner’s parent, child, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, cousin, grandparent, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother or half-sister, whether the relative is related to the individual or the individual’s spouse/domestic partner/civil union partner by blood, marriage or adoption.

G. Consensual Personal Relationship

It means marriage, engagement, dating or other ongoing romantic or sexual relationships.

H. Cohabitant

It means non-related persons who share a household under circumstances where there is financial interdependence.

I. Interest

It means the ownership or control of more than 1% of the profits of a firm, association, or partnership, or more than 1% of the stock in any corporation or for-profit business venture.

J. Non-profit

It means a 501(c) organization as per the federal law of the United States according to 26 U.S.C. § 501 and is one of 29 types of nonprofit organizations exempt from some federal income taxes.

§ 1-2 Web site

A. THE WEB SITE:

The Towns' existing website shall contain the following records and information. No password or username shall be required, and no other restriction shall be imposed that would prevent a user from accessing the information on the site anonymously and at no cost. No record or information on the Town's Internet site shall be removed prior to the time, if any, when the corresponding non-Internet version of that record is permitted by law to be destroyed. All downloadable records shall be, if possible, text-searchable PDF or Microsoft Excel files.

B. FINANCIAL RECORDS:

The Web site shall provide the public with access, at no charge and no login required, to the following financial records:

(1) Records reflecting annual town expenditures, as determined by the Town Chief Financial Officer and as available within the Town's central accounting system and payroll system, which shall include but not be limited to:

(a) Purchase Order Report in Microsoft Excel or csv file, which shall include the following fields of information:

1. PO #
2. PO Date
3. Vendor ID
4. Vendor Name
5. Description
6. Amount
7. Charged Account
8. Account Type
9. Account Description
10. Status
11. Check ID

12. First Enc Date
13. Received Date
14. Check Date
15. Void Date
16. Invoice

§ 1-3 Ethics and Disclosures

There shall be established by this ordinance that the Town of Dover will follow:

A. ETHICS TRAINING

- (1) All members of the Town's Public Bodies shall attend a mandatory Ethics and Conflict of Interest Training at the beginning of their term.

B. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

- (1) All members of the Town's Public Bodies shall complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure by January 30th of each calendar year.

- (2) The Conflict of Interest Disclosure shall include, but may not limited to, the following information and questions:

- (a) Full Name

- (b) Name of Public Body

- (c) Title/Position/Term in the Public Body

- (d) Has the member of the Public Body and/or any relative, business partner, and/or individual(s) whom the member has/had a consensual personal relationship, provided services to, or been employed by the Town of Dover during the last ten (10) calendar years?

- (e) Has the member of the Public Body and/or any relative, business partner, and/or individual(s) whom the member has/had a consensual personal relationship had any direct or indirect interest in any business transaction(s) during the last ten (10) calendar years in which the Town of Dover was a party?

- (f) Does the member of the Public Body have any relative(s), business partner(s), and/or individual(s) who the member has/had a consensual personal relationship working as an employee or contractor for the Town of Dover? If yes, please provide their names and title.

- (g) Does the member of the Public Body have any interest in any firm, association, partnership, corporation and/or for-profit venture? If yes, please provide the names and the percentage of stock owned.

- (h) Has any of the business(es), where the member of the Public Body has any interest, done any business with any company and/or government entity that the Town of Dover has voted to enter any legal and/or financial agreements during the last 10 years? If yes, please provide the names of the companies and/or government entities.
 - (i) Has the member of the Public Body served on the board of directors or been a member of any non-profit organization during the last ten (10) years? If yes, please provides the names of the organizations and title.
 - (j) Does the member of the Public Body have any relative(s), business partner(s), and/or individual(s) who the member has/had a consensual personal relationship interest in any pending legal proceedings involving the Town of Dover?
 - (k) Has the member of the Public Body received any campaign contributions from any individual, partner with an interest in a company and/or business entity that has submitted redevelopment plans and/or received approval or financing for redevelopment plans in the Town of Dover during the last ten (10) years? If yes, please provide the name, date and amount of the campaign contribution.
- (3) The Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosures shall be published on the Town’s web site by February 28th of each year.

§ 1-4 Privacy and Data Protection

Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure of information deemed private, personal, or confidential or otherwise exempted from disclosure by applicable law.

§ 1-5 Effective Date and Scope

This Act shall take effect upon publication as required by law. All requirements as to posting information shall be prospective from the date this Act takes effect, except the Financial documents identified in Section B, which shall be retroactive to the calendar year 2013.

§ 1-6 Construction

This act is remedial and shall be liberally construed to effectuate its findings and purposes.

§ 1-7 Saving Clause

If any portion of this Act shall be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid or inoperative, in whole or in part, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall, to the extent that it is not unconstitutional, invalid or inoperative, remain in full force and effect, and no such determination shall be deemed to invalidate the remaining portions of this Act.

§ 1-8 Repealer

All ordinances or part of ordinances inconsistent with this within ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

§ 1-9 Amendments

Any amendments or changes to this Chapter shall require a three fourths (3/4) of the total membership of the Governing Body of the Town of Dover.

DRAFT



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

RESOLUTION NO. 207-2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE TOWN OF DOVER DECLARING INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND APPOINTING ALDERMEN TO LEAD THE RACIAL EQUITY INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, health disparities have existed in America for more than 400 years and we now are witnessing a coronavirus pandemic, which is shining a stark light upon the long-running racial divide; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has reported that non-white Americans (median age 31) are younger as a whole than white Americans (median age 44), but Covid-19 deaths among those under age 65 exceeded their proportion of the population; and

WHEREAS, the researchers found that 33.9% of people under 65 who died were Hispanic, yet they account for just 20% of the under-65 population in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, similarly, Black, Asian, and other non-white people accounted for 40.2% of deaths under 65, though they make up just 23% of those under 65 nationally. Black people accounted for 30% of deaths under age 65; and

WHEREAS, according to Johns Hopkins, Black and Latino Americans who get infected are more likely to have pre-existing conditions that increase their risk of severe illness and because they are more likely to be uninsured, they tend to put off seeking treatment and are sicker when they do receive care and moreover, they tend to receive less aggressive treatment than White Americans; and

WHEREAS, at home, crowded housing conditions make it harder for Black and Latino Americans to practice physical distancing, and many of them work in essential jobs that cannot be performed remotely; and

WHEREAS, there is clear data to illustrate that racial inequality negatively impacts the lives of Black and Hispanic members of our society, the current COVID-19 crisis has helped to highlight now, more than ever, that racial inequality, not race itself, causes disproportionately higher rates of homelessness, incarceration, and economic hardships for Minorities and racial inequality is evident on systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels, all operating over the course of time and across generations; and

WHEREAS, the nation-wide negative repercussions of historical racial and ethnic inequality, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining” and the current limitations and access to healthy, nutritious food, reduced life expectancy, increased rates of lead poisoning, limited access to clean water, and higher rates of infant mortality demonstrate the current impact of racial inequality; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dover is engaging directly in a reform agenda for public safety, based on research to fight racial inequality wherever it is found within our systems, including

recommendations to reform the Dover Police Department (DPD), including from the independent audit of our police department to improve accountability with the implementation of a public advisory committee, document publication on the DPD website for transparency, and building trust between residents and our Police through community policing; and

WHEREAS, the Dover Police Department internal affairs complaint form and an officer commendation form in both English and Spanish shall both be prominently displayed in the main lobby of the police department freely accessible to members of the public; and

WHEREAS, this allows individuals to obtain a complaint form without having to interact with an officer; and

WHEREAS, Members of the public can use these forms when they would like to positively recognize an officer for their professional conduct or to file a complaint against an officer; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Carolyn Blackman and the Board of Aldermen recognize that not everyone in Dover has the same opportunities to be healthy, as there are differences in health based on race, ethnicity, sex, neighborhood, income, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, further research has shown that the neighborhood that one lives in, ones access to quality housing, a good job, and a good education has a greater impact on ones health than does genetics or access to care; and

WHEREAS, the members of Dover Board of Aldermen have steadfastly supported, will continue to support, and will continue to implement efforts that focus on improving the quality of life and equity for each and every Dover resident; and

WHEREAS, racial inequality impacts Black, Hispanic, and Minority people in America in ways that some others cannot understand, for example, the performance of simple tasks like driving, walking in neighborhoods, just going to a park come with certain risks not experienced by others, and life events like getting a job, purchasing a home, buying a car, or just raising a family come with barriers that other cultures do not experience; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Aldermen believes that it is now time to declare racial inequality a public health crisis in our community, because the disparities that we have outlined represent a public health crisis that affects us all, and we as a civil society have an obligation to raise awareness and make sure that every sector of our society works to reverse this crisis; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Aldermen urges every sector of our society to declare these disparities as a public health crisis and to immediately take steps to address, fund, and support areas that strategically reduce the long term impact of the Social Determinants of Health for at risk communities; and

WHEREAS, Dover is committed to honestly and directly addressing minority health inequities, including a systematic, data-driven focus on poverty, economic mobility, and other factors that impact the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, minorities are impacted more greatly by challenges and inequities in many areas, including but not limited to Crime, Social Capital, Education, Transportation, Employment, Food Access, Health Behaviors, Socioeconomic Status, Environmental Exposure, Access to Health Services, Housing, and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Emergency Physicians, are among the organizations calling racial inequality a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the members of Dover Board of Aldermen recognize that racial inequality is real and as a community we have to work together to promote equity and eradicate racial inequality.

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, the Mayor and Alderman passed resolution 164-2020 becoming the first municipality and government entity in New Jersey to join the joining the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Alderman hereby declare racial inequality as a public health crisis in the Town of Dover and recommits our full attention to improving the quality of life and health of our minority residents and hereby, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Mayor of the Town of Dover will appoint immediately an Ad-Hoc committee composed of four Aldermen representing each ward to develop by December 31, 2020 a Town Equity and Empowerment Initiative Report centered on five primary goals: (1) The Town of Dover reflects the community it serves; (2) purposeful community outreach and engagement; (3) equitable service delivery to all residents and visitors; (4) support human rights and opportunities for everyone to achieve their full potential, and (5) commitment to equity in local-government decision-making.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF DOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS

John P. Schmidt, Acting Municipal Clerk

Carolyn Blackman, Mayor

ADOPTED: _____



TOWN OF DOVER MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN

RESOLUTION NO. 208-2020

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF DOVER LAUNCHING THE 'I LOVE DOVER' CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, the Town of Dover is a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community; and

WHEREAS, our Town and its residents have a lot of needs; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen recognize that our community is full of talent and diverse skills; and

WHEREAS, many of our residents and visitors are willing to contribute their time, knowledge, experience and/or monetary contributions to better our Town and the lives of all our residents; and

WHEREAS, our town needs a comprehensive community initiative that brings our community to work together in different projects aimed to beautify our town's public spaces and recreational areas, private properties, Downton District and improve the quality of life of our all residents including our most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive community initiative shall have a robust civic and educational component to create awareness; sense of belonging, pride, and respect to each resident regardless of age, socio-economic status, immigration status, and language skills; and

WHEREAS, historically our community is stronger when it comes together to tackle big priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover launch the 'I Love Dover' community initiative (campaign) to:

- 1- Create volunteer brigades to clean up all the open and public spaces of our town including waterways, parks, neighborhoods, and cemeteries,
- 2- Promote donations to the food pantries and soup kitchens located in various churches and non-profit organizations in our town.
- 3- Encourage our residents to support our local non-profit organizations.
- 4- Encourage our residents to buy from local businesses.
- 5- Create an awareness campaign so people do not litter on the street and use the receptacles to properly dispose trash and recyclables located on sidewalks and local parks.
- 6- Create awareness so neighbors help other neighbors specially our Senior Citizens who need help maintaining their homes.
- 7- Create awareness so drivers respect speed limits around the town including residential neighborhoods.

- 8- Create awareness so residents can volunteer to coach various sports; leagues and organizations.
- 9- Create awareness so residents keep social distance, wear a mask, cover their cough, wash their hands frequently during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 10-Create awareness so residents park in their driveways freeing space on the streets in our residential neighborhoods.
- 11-Engage our community residents to volunteer in the new Community Garden of Dover located in Crescent Field.
- 12-Encourage our residents, whether homeowners or renters, to maintain their home in good conditions following our Town Code Enforcement Guidelines.
- 13-Educate our residents to properly use the pedestrian traffic lights and use the pedestrian crossings in our streets.
- 14- Other ideas that residents can provide to improve the quality of life of all our residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town of Dover will develop a logo and official t-shirts for this initiative, and develop a comprehensive plan to educate and create awareness harnessing the power of social media and word of mouth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town of Dover will launch the initiative on Saturday, August 29, 2020 by doing a Town-Wide Cleanup lead by the Mayor and the Aldermen in each ward.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF DOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS

John P. Schmidt, Acting Municipal Clerk

Carolyn Blackman, Mayor

ADOPTED: _____