

**TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-2022**

**AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN AT  
CHAPTER 6 TO CREATE SUBSECTION 45.5 TO GOVERN  
THE "BETTER TOGETHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE"**

**WHEREAS**, Better Together Moorestown ("Better Together") was a citizen-led task force supported by the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown (the "Township"); and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of Better Together was to explore the protection and celebration of diversity and ensure inclusion amongst residents, businesses, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Better Together conducted a survey and prepared and presented their findings including Task Force Survey Results and Recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, at the August 8, 2022 Township Council considered draft language to be used in formally creating the Better Together Advisory Committee as a formal Committee of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the work that has been conducted to date and the need to further the work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the Township going forward, the Township Council hereby amends the Township Code to create the "Better Together Advisory Committee" and to govern the operation and scope of same.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1.** The Township Code of the Township of Moorestown is hereby amended to create Chapter 6-45.5 creating and governing the "Better Together Advisory Committee" as follows:

**§6-45.5. Better Together Advisory Committee.**

A. Purpose; name.

(1) The purpose of this Committee is to advise Township Council on how Moorestown Township can better protect and celebrate diversity and equity while ensuring inclusion among our residents, businesses and visitors. The Better Together Advisory Committee will promote an innovative, engaged and informed community and will advise and assist the Township Council, Manager, and any other municipal board, department, committee or municipal officials on matters involving diversity, equity and inclusion in our community, with the purpose of ensuring that cultural, economic, and ethnic differences are considered in the decision-making process.

(2) The Committee shall be known as the "Better Together Advisory Committee."

## B. Establishment.

The Better Together Advisory Committee of the Township shall consist of eleven (11) regular members and one member of the governing body, all of whom shall be appointed by the Township Council, shall be residents or business owners of the Township of Moorestown. The membership structure and parameters shall be as more fully set forth below. Appointments will be made to establish a membership that encourages and represents the diverse perspectives we have in our community. Members shall serve without salary or other compensation and shall each be removable from office by the Township Council at any time, without cause, upon a vote of a majority of all the members of Township Council, except that the unexcused absence of a Committee member from three or more Committee meetings within a twelve (12) month period shall constitute a forfeiture of that Committee member's office by majority vote of Council. All members shall be voting members except the governing body member appointee.

(1) Membership. The membership of the Committee shall include a total of twelve (12) members as follows:

- a. Eleven (11) regular members, who shall be appointed from diverse backgrounds, with consideration to ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation and the like and should have expertise in fields and interests such as conversations across differences, communications, community engagement, community organizations, community outreach, compassionate community initiatives, diverse populations, diversity training, educations/schools systems, equity and inclusion, facilitation, fundraising, marketing, disability advocacy, research and welcoming initiatives. At least one shall be a Moorestown-based business owner, who may or not reside in the Township; and at least two members shall be youth, ages 14-19, who are residents of Moorestown.
- b. In addition, one (1) member of the governing body shall be appointed, as a non-voting member.

(2) Appointments.

- a. Regular committee members shall be appointed for two-year terms, except that the first appointments shall be split into six appointments for the balance of the current year plus one (1) full calendar year, and six appointments for the balance of the current year plus two (2) full calendar years, so that appointments will be evenly staggered going forward.
- b. Youth members, as well as the governing body member, shall be appointed to a one-year term.
- c. There are no term limits. Members may be reappointed to succeed themselves and for non-successive terms. Vacancies shall be filled for the balance of any unexpired term.

(3) Organization; officers; meetings.

- a. An organization meeting shall be held annually during January. At such a meeting, the Committee shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary from the Committee.
- b. The Committee shall hold at least one regular meeting each month.
- c. The Committee shall keep minutes of all its official proceedings.

- d. A quorum shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) members present at a properly called meeting in order to conduct business in the name of the Committee. The non-voting member shall be included in determining a quorum.

### C. Powers and duties.

The Committee is established to be an advisory body, with no governing power or fiduciary responsibility, whose duties shall be to provide advice and recommendations to the Township about the following:

- (1) Supporting Moorestown to become a welcoming town that encourages equality, fairness, cooperation, and respect among and by all persons who live, work, do business in, visit, worship or otherwise engage with Moorestown Township.
- (2) Recommending effective strategies for public engagement, removing barriers, and increasing inclusion and access.
- (3) Recommending opportunities for community partnerships as a strategy to better understand and address equity impacts throughout the Township.
- (4) Facilitate building relationships between the Township and underserved, underrepresented, and marginalized communities and serving as trusted messengers to those communities and the community at large.
- (5) Advising the Township on strategies that strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion.
- (6) Acting as a clearinghouse and resource for the community on local diversity, equity and social inclusion issues.
- (7) Performing such other duties as directed by the Township Council or Manager.

**Section 2. Repealer.** Any Ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of its inconsistency.

**Section 3. Severability.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of the Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect, and for this purpose the provisions of the Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

**Section 4. Effective date.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon proper passage and publication in accordance with the law.

### NOTICE

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, held on August 22, 2022. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by the Township Council, after a public hearing thereon, at a meeting to be held at 111 West Second Street, Moorestown, NJ on September 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm or at any date, time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. For those attending virtually or telephonically, the agenda for said meeting will provide instructions for public participation; all persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. The ordinance may be viewed in full on the Township's website at [www.moorestown.nj.us](http://www.moorestown.nj.us). In addition, during the week prior to and including the date of such further consideration, copies will be available from the Municipal Clerk's Office to any member of the general public who shall request such copies.

Patricia L. Hunt, RMC  
Township Clerk

## TOWNSHIP COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

Subject: Ordinance to Create “Better Together Advisory Committee”

Submitted by: Douglas L. Heinold, Esquire

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### RECOMMENDATION

The attached Ordinance would create another advisory committee within the Township Code under Chapter 6. The current list of advisory committees includes: Tree Planting and Preservation, Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Oversight, Recreation Advisory, Appearance, Telecommunications and Technology, Environmental Advisory, and Sustainable Moorestown Green Team. The new advisory committee would be named the “Better Together Advisory Committee” with the purpose of addressing issues and fostering progress related Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

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### PREVIOUS ACTION

The Township Council discussed a draft of the substance of the Ordinance at the August 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. This draft adds the procedural framework around formally amending the Code to create Chapter 6.45.5. Some further revisions were made based upon Council’s comments regarding make-up of the Committee. Finally, some fine-tuning was done to stagger terms of initial appointees and address quorum and appointments at the time of vacancies.

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### BACKGROUND

Following a couple of years of legwork including an extensive survey, Council expressed the desire to formally create this advisory committee as a Township entity.

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### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Township related to this Ordinance.

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### CONCURRENCES

Kevin Aberant, Esq., Township Manager