

**Chairperson**  
Eduardo Rivera



**Members:**  
Harry Danso  
Julie Feeney  
Jeremy Fontain  
Kathleen Gervais  
Edward Kwiyp  
Edward G. Robinson  
Barbara Zerillo

**Vice-Chair**  
Cara Berg Powers

**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Summary  
Monday July 1st, 2013, 6pm  
City Hall – Esther Howland Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:** Harry Danso, Julie Feeney, Jeremy Fontain, Kathleen Gervais, Edward Kwiyp, Eduardo Rivera, Edward G. Robinson, and Barbara Zerillo

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff:** Jayna Turчек, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities and Ryan Ollis, Intern

**1. Call to Order:**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

**2. Introductions:**

The Commission members introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of June 3, 2013 Minutes:**

Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

**4. New Business:**

The Director made a request to take items out of order. The request was put to a motion and unanimously approved.

a) Election of Officers: A motion made by Harry Danso was unanimously passed to postpone the election until next month because there are three new members to the Commission. A second motion was unanimously passed asking members to provide nominations for the positions of chair, vice chair, and clerk to the Director of Human Rights.

b) PRIDE Celebration (September 7, 2013)



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The Commission will march as a group at the PRIDE parade. Edward Robinson presented a donation of t-shirts to members to be worn at PRIDE. The Commission unanimously accepted the donation and agreed they would be worn during the parade.

c) Quarterly Newsletter

The Commission unanimously decided to create a quarterly newsletter.

**5. Old Business:**

a) Mediation Video

Commission members will find actors to perform the video in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Twi. The taping of the videos will be in August and members will assist with the editing process. The Commission emphasized that this project demonstrated their interest and commitment to use mediation to solve local disputes.

b) Annual Report of the Commission

The Chair motioned to move this item to the August 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Motion unanimously passed.

c) Quarterly planning

Commission activities for the July-September quarter will include: the Community Reading for the Anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, a LGBTQ resource guide, the Mediation Video, and the PRIDE parade and celebration.

The Commission plans to draft a Human Rights calendar that will identify signature Human Rights events for the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Quarter (October-December): Commission added Human Rights day celebration to Quarterly Calendar.

d) The Anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech (August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013)

The Commission is organizing an event from 12:00-1:00PM in the Worcester Common to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Jeremy Fontain volunteered to assist with the coordination and planning for the event.

e) LGBTQ education and awareness

The Commission is working to create an LGBTQ resource guide. A draft is expected to be prepared for the August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting.

**6. Commissioners' Report:**

Edward Robinson: June 15<sup>th</sup> attended LGBT festival, June 19<sup>th</sup> P-FLAG meeting, June 20<sup>th</sup> attended World Refugee day, attended Shrewsbury Street Association (neighborhood watch

meetings), June 22<sup>nd</sup> Worcester Police gun buyback event, June 22<sup>nd</sup> Juneteenth Celebration, June 27<sup>th</sup> Clark University discussion of the film “Live free or Die,” June 30<sup>th</sup> Worcester Asian festival.

Harry Danso: assisted a Ghanaian family adapt to American life through education and dialogue.

**7. Office of Human Rights Director’s Report:**

Introduced Office of Human Rights and Disabilities Intern, Ryan Ollis.

**8. Next meeting: August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at City Hall**

**9. Public Comment**

No public comment

**10. Adjournment:**

On a motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission  
Planning Calendar**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (July- September)**

1. The Anniversary of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech (August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013)
2. PRIDE Celebration (September 7, 2013)
3. Mediation Video
4. LGBTQ resource guide

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (October- December 2013)**

1. Human Rights Day Celebration

**Monthly Meeting – Monday July 1st, 2013, 6pm  
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions (Commission Members New and Old and Guests)
3. Approval of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. New Business:
  - a) Election of Officers
  - b) PRIDE Celebration (September 7, 2013)
  - c) Quarterly Newsletter
5. Old Business:
  - a) Mediation video
  - b) Annual Report of the Commission
  - c) Quarterly planning
  - d) 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech (August 28th, 2013)
  - e) LGBTQ education and awareness
6. Commissioners' Report
7. Office of Human Rights Director's Report
8. Location of Next Meeting (August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013)
9. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
10. Adjournment

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