

Chairperson
Aaron Richman



Members:
Shawna Curran
Lilian Chukwurah
Izaida Gonzalez
Robyn Kennedy
Ike McBride

Vice-chairperson
Cara Berg Powers

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

**Monthly Meeting Summary – Monday January 9th, 2017, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber, 455 Main St., Worcester, MA**

Members Present: Aaron Richman, Cara Berg Powers, Shawna Curran, Izaida Gonzalez, Robyn Kennedy, and Lilian Chukwurah

Members Absent: Ike McBride

Staff Present: Jayna Turчек, Simon Elliott

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum was established and Vice-chairperson, Cara Berg Powers, called the meeting to order at 6:20pm. The Vice-chairperson welcomed the Commissioners and those present, Commissioners and staff, briefly introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of December 5th, 2016 meeting minutes:** Commissioner Kennedy motioned to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Curran seconded. Unanimously approved as written.
3. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Human Rights Day Award Ceremony and Activity Fair**

The Commissioners debriefed the above named event, with overall positive reviews. Commissioner Lilian Chukwurah suggested a bigger venue next time along with future consideration to return to making this an annual event.
 - b. **Review and assess Fiscal Year 2017 goals and timeline**

The Commission reviewed the tabled items from the last year and each Commissioner was assigned an item to further review and research and return to the February meeting with a proposal for next steps. Director Turчек and Intern Elliott will explore further community engagement opportunities for the Commission. Commissioner Chukwurah will look into the shelter surveys. Vice-chair Powers will look into the Crime Watch/Neighborhood Association meetings/groups. Chair Richman will complete the Annual Report 2016. Members of the Subcommittee on the Dialogues on Race (Commissioners Kennedy, Gonzalez, and Curran) will



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look at the City of Worcester social media policy, Worcester Police Department Bureau of Professional Standards, and Race Dialogue items. If a subcommittee meeting can not be scheduled Commissioners will break down the items and work on a proposal for next steps on each item separately.

4. New Business:

a. Announcements: Dr. Martin Luther King events in the city

- i.** Worcester State 23rd annual youth Dr. King breakfast, Saturday, January 14th, 2017 9:00am.
- ii.** UMASS Memorial 29th annual tribute to Dr. King, Thursday, January 12th, 2017, 11:30-1:00pm.
- iii.** Commissioner Richman will join Director Turcek at the Dr. King Community breakfast at QCC Monday January 16th, 2017, at 8am.

b. Planning for St. Patrick's Day parade Sunday March 12th, 2017

Commissioner Berg Powers proposed that the Commission engage in community education while awaiting the beginning of the parade, publicizing the opportunity beforehand and inviting other organizations committed to Human Rights work to walk alongside the Commission during the parade; members agreed.

c. Informational communications regarding City hiring:

- i.** Police civil service exams (written examination March 25th, 2017) <http://www.mass.gov/anf/employment-equal-access-disability/civil-serv-info/>
- ii.** Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Malika Carter, is rolling out trainings for hiring managers and for employees on the new applicant screening process for city employees.

d. Commission member vacancies filled

Director Turcek informed the Commission that Commissioner Sean Lauziere has resigned from his position as he is no longer a city resident. Director Turcek also informed the Commission that Edward G. Robinson and Elizabeth O'Callahan will be joining the Commission once approved by City Council on January 10th, 2017.

e. Announcement: Pre-registration open for MA Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference. Two-day training: April 6th-7th, 2017

<http://fhcrconference.com/>

5. Location of next meeting (February 6th, 2017): City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

6. Public comment (3 minutes per individual):

Prospective Commissioner Elizabeth O’Callahan suggested that the Human Rights Commission should take advantage of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in order to publicize the work of the Commission, especially toward young people and to engage more with that energized demographic.

7. Adjournment at 7:50pm

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Human Rights Commission will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact Jayna Turcek at 508-799-8486 or humanrights@worcesterma.gov.

The Human Rights Commission is dedicated to its service of safeguarding the civil liberties of all persons who live or work in Worcester. May the public kindly take notice to respect the order and decorum of the meeting. Please silence all cell phones and similar electronic devices. Refrain from speaking on cell phones or to others until recognized by the Chair that you have the floor.