

City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission
Meeting Summary – November 2, 2009
Esther Howland City Council Chamber, City Hall

Present: Cheryl Pope (Chair), Eduardo Rivera (Vice-Chair), Maria Florez, Kathy Gervais, Edward Kwiyp, Mable Millner, Edward G. Robinson; Fran Manocchio, staff
Guest: State Senator Michael O. Moore
Public: Herbert Cremer

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Cheryl Pope, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.
2. October Meeting Summary: Approved, unanimously, as submitted.
3. New Business:
 - a. Stand Against Racism: Fran reported that the YWCA of Central Massachusetts has joined with several other YWCAs throughout the United States in a program, The Stand Against Racism. This is a movement of the YWCA with the goal of bringing people together from all walks of life – across the country – to raise awareness that racism still exists. On Friday, April 30th, throughout the country – organizations, businesses, educational institutions, government, houses of worship – will conduct a local event or events that raise awareness about racism. The YWCA has pulled together a coordinating committee; Mable Millner, Cheryl Pope and Fran Manocchio have all been invited to participate. Commissions agreed that they would like to participate in the local events and “sign on” (www.standagainstracism.org)
 - b. Report on Training Session for Local Non-Profit Organization: Cheryl reported that she and Fran presented 18 hours of diversity and inclusion training (Two 3-hour sessions held on three consecutive Wednesdays in October) for more than 120 individuals. We received a contribution of \$2000 which will be applied to the purchase of a laptop for Yung Phan. Commissioners requested that Fran send them a packet of the materials used for the training.
 - c. Citizens Advisory Council: The Citizens Advisory Council will meet next Monday, November 9 to interview the candidates who applied for City Boards and Commissions. We have two openings on the HRC and three applicants, one of whom also applied to the Commission on Disabilities.
 - d. December 10th Event: In recognition of the 61st Anniversary of the United Nation’s Declaration of Human Rights, the Human Rights Commission, along with the Commission on Disabilities and the Hate Not Here Campaign at the College of the Holy Cross, will host a forum on the new federal hate crimes prevention legislation and the local resources. Confirmed participants include: Maura Healey, Chief, Civil Rights

Division, Office of Attorney General; Edward Karkancinas, First District Attorney; Gary Gemme, Chief of Police; and, Congressman McGovern or his designee.

4. Old Business:
 - a. FY2010 Proposed Goals, Objectives and Work Plan, Draft #2: Approved as distributed.
 - b. Know Your Rights and What To Do When Stopped by the Police Cards: Fran reported that an intern from Clark will complete this project.
 - c. Social Justice Roundtable: Cheryl and Fran reported on the status of the Social Justice Roundtable, a learning network of organizations committed to social justice issues in Worcester. The next full meeting of the roundtable will take place on November 12, 2009 at 5:30 pm at the YWCA. Fran distributed a work plan. Cheryl stated that there is a need to increase participation.
 - d. Taxis/Liveries: Eduardo Rivera provided an update on taxis and liveries. Through Latino USA, he is working on a Consumer Bill of Rights that would be used by both taxis and liveries.
 - e. City Hall Office/MCAD: Cheryl provided an update. Staff are now keeping the door to the office closed.
 - f. Temple Emanuel Follow-up: Cheryl reported on follow-up regarding Temple Emanuel. The City Manager's Office is committed to adhering to an expectation that City Departments will be aware of and sensitive to religious holidays and festivals.
5. State Senator Michael O. Moore: Commissioners welcomed Sen. Moore attended the HRC to learn more about the work of the Commission and the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities. Discussion held, particularly regarding state budget and potential impact to municipal budget. Sen. Moore engaged in conversation with Commissioners about priorities.
6. RESPECT: It's the Way to Play: Mable and Fran reviewed the PowerPoint Presentation they have developed, along with Colleen O'Brien (Director, Health, Physical Education and Athletics, Worcester Public Schools) and Rob Pezzella (School Safety Office, Worcester Public Schools) for a conference which will be held on November 12, 2009. The PowerPoint was well received.
7. Director's First Quarter Report: Fran will email prior to December meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Manocchio
Director, Office of Human Rights and Disabilities
November 30, 2009