

**Chairperson**  
Eduardo Rivera

**Vice-Chair**  
Cara Berg Powers



**Members:**  
Harry Danso  
Kathleen Gervais  
Edward Kwiyp  
Mable Millner  
Edward G. Robinson

**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission**

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

**Members Present:** Cara Berg Powers, Kathleen Gervais, Edward Kwiyp, Eduardo Rivera, and Edward G. Robinson

**Members Absent:** Harry Danso, Mable Millner

**Staff:** Jayna Turcek, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities and Caitlin Alcorn, Intern for the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

**Guests:** Dr. Gaelan Lee Benway, Quinsigamond Community College

**1. Call to Order:**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

**2. Introductions:**

The Commission and guest introduced themselves.

**3. Thank you to departing commission members:**

The Chairman thanked Jeffrey Miller for his hard work on the commission. The Chairman then thanked Mable Millner and recognized her for being the longest serving commissioner. Finally, the Chairman thanked Udeme Ukpong for his input during his short time on the commission.

**4. Approval of March 4, 2013 Minutes:**

Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

**5. New Business:**

a) Greetings from Dr. Gaelan Lee Benway, QCC

Dr. Benway introduced herself as a Sociology professor at Quinsigamond Community College and Chair of the Diversity Caucus, a faculty and staff group that promotes equality and respect for all students on campus. Dr. Benway gave an overview of the Diversity Caucus, the QCC Pride Network, and the QCC Pride Alliance. The Pride Network provides trainings for



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faculty and staff at QCC so they can provide a safe and respectful space for LGBT students. The Pride Alliance is a student organization that will be holding an event on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> to help make the LGBTQ resources in Worcester known to QCC students. Dr. Benway also reviewed the diversity of the QCC student body, the current services available to LGBTQ students, and those services now being developed. There was a discussion regarding possible opportunities for collaboration between the QCC Diversity Caucus and the Human Rights Commission.

## **6. Old Business:**

The Chairman called for a motion to address the following topics out of order. The motion was unanimously approved.

### b) LGBTQ education and awareness

Mr. Robinson explained that he attended the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with AIDS Project Worcester and the LGBT Asylum Support Task Force. He provided a list of high schools and churches in Worcester with a Gay-Straight Alliance or that identify as “gay safe.” There was a discussion on the possibility of developing a resource guide with this information.

### a) Youth and Human Rights

This issue was tabled from the last commission meeting because the subcommittee was made up predominantly of now former commission members. After a discussion, it was decided that the subcommittee would be put on hold. Mr. Robinson will give his materials from previous subcommittee meetings to the Chairman at the next commission meeting. The subcommittee will be reestablished when the commission has full membership.

### c) April Fair Housing Conference

Ms. Turchek distributed materials about the conference and encouraged commission members to register for the conference online. Mr. Kwiyup, Mr. Robinson, and the Chairman said they would be available to table for the commission at the event on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### d) Stand Against Racism

Ms. Berg Powers confirmed the screening of the documentary *The Central Park Five* on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Worcester Youth Center as discussed at the last meeting. The Commission will co-sponsor the event which will include a discussion following the documentary as well as student projects. The commission will also attend the Rally at City Hall event the following day. Mr. Robinson and Ms. Gervais volunteered for this event.

## **7. Commissioners' Report:**

Members attended the following community events and activities:

- Main South Alliance for Public Safety meeting
- Meeting between AIDS Project Worcester and the LGBT Asylum Support Task Force

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

Ms. Turchek informed the commission that Ines Beron, the housing discrimination intake staff member of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities was no longer working in the office. Ms. Turchek also discussed the upcoming Spring Forum on Civic Engagement put on by the City Manager’s Coalition Against Bias and Hate. The event will take place on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm at the Worcester Public Library Saxe Room.

**9. Location of Next Meeting (May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013):**

The commission will look into the possibility of holding the next meeting at the Central Massachusetts Recovery Learning Center. If space is not available, the meeting will be held at City Hall.

**10. Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**11. Adjournment:**

On a motion that was duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (April-June)**

- 1. Fair Housing
- 2. Stand Against Racism
- 3. May Day
- 4. Juneteenth
- 5. Loving Day

**Monthly Meeting – Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, 6pm**  
**Location: City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions (Commission Members and Guests)
3. Thank you to departing commission member
4. Approval of March 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes
5. New Business:
  - a) Greetings from Dr. Gaelan Lee Benway, QCC
6. Old Business:
  - a) Youth and Human Rights
  - b) LGBTQ education and awareness
  - c) April Fair Housing Conference
  - d) Stand Against Racism
7. Commissioners' Report
8. Office of Human Rights Director's Report
9. Location of Next Meeting (May 6th, 2013)
10. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
11. Adjournment

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 508-799-1152 or [humanrights@worcesterma.go](mailto:humanrights@worcesterma.go)

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.

# QCC Pride Alliance

## Spring Community Forum

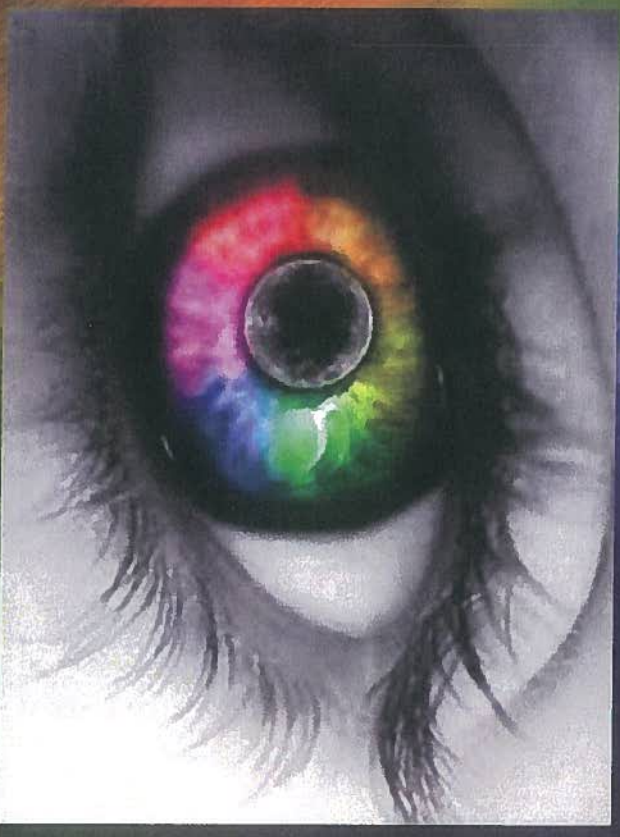
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013

2-3:30 P.M.

107A

JOIN QCC'S PRIDE ALLIANCE  
FOR AN OPEN DISCUSSION  
WITH LOCAL LEADERS WHO  
SERVE AND CELEBRATE THE  
LGBT COMMUNITY.

SOFT DRINKS WILL BE SERVED AND  
BAKED GOODS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FOR A SMALL FEE.



*This flyer approved by the Office of Student Life*

## LGBT at QCC

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The **QCC Pride Alliance** is a student organization for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning students and their student Allies.

[Faculty Advisor reports to Director of Student Life]

The **QCC Pride Network** is a group of staff, faculty, and administrators prepared to engage with students and colleagues as informational resources with respect to GLBT and gender identity issues.

[A project of the QCC Diversity Caucus]

The **QCC Diversity Caucus** promotes the educational mission of Quinsigamond Community College and embraces social justice by advancing a campus climate that affirms the dignity and worth of each person.

The Diversity Caucus amplifies and protects the College ideal of equal rights for all people. It fosters a spirit of inclusiveness by reflecting upon the contributions of age, race, gender, ability, religious convictions, socioeconomic status, ethnic heritage, and sexuality.

In its work, the Diversity Caucus cultivates the lifelong learning about and appreciation for diversity necessary to the realization of an enlightened and educated citizenry.

[Caucus Chair reports to Assistant Vice President for Policy and Governance]