

Chairperson
Edward G. Robinson

Vice chairperson
Aaron Richman



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:
Cara Berg Powers
Harry Danso
Kathleen Gervais
Robyn Kennedy
Shirley Konneh
Eduardo Rivera

Meeting Summary for November 3rd, 2014
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

Members Present: Kathleen Gervais, Robyn Kennedy, Shirley Konneh, Aaron Richman, and Edward G. Robinson

Members Absent: Cara Berg Powers, Harry Danso, and Eduardo Rivera

Staff: Jayna Turchek and Sundar Layalu

1. **Call to order:** A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:15pm.
2. **Introductions:** Introductions were made by welcoming new member Shirley Konneh.
3. **Approval of October 6th, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Worcester Police Department overview of Community Impact Division and neighborhood watch meetings**

Lt. Stanley Roy and Captain Roger Steele from the operations division of the Worcester police department presented on the neighborhood watch meetings and the work of the community impact division in the city.

Each sector in the city (Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest) has officers assigned to walk and handle safety and quality of life issues. You can call the operations division to find out what sector officer you may need to talk with if there is an issue in your neighborhood. These neighborhood officers address chronic neighborhood incidences and are good resources. For example, neighbor disputes may be long standing and heated and the neighborhood officer is likely to be the one that knows the whole story.

There are about 50 neighborhood watch meetings that discuss largely quality of life issues. Each meeting is attended by a community impact officer and that officer works with the route officer to pass information and to get concerns addressed or questions answered. Other people that regularly attend these meetings are someone from code enforcement or a nuisance inspector to



OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITIES, CITY HALL
455 MAIN ST., WORCESTER, MA 01608
TELEPHONE (508) 799-1152 | FAX (508) 799-1208



discuss problem properties. Someone from DPW may attend if there are specific issues that need to be addressed. Additionally there are often traffic enforcement officers in attendance as well.

b. Review of Worcester Police Department, Bureau of Professional Standards 3rd and 4th quarter reports of 2013

A request was made for the codebook that lists all the complaint types for the next review.

c. Presentation of results of community mapping project

Sundar Layalu presented the results of the community mapping project that was conducted at tabling events throughout the summer and early fall. The excel sheet with all the recorded responses will be shared with the Commission.

d. 2015 fair housing poster contest – Tabled

e. Transgender Day of Remembrance- Aids Project Worcester is hosting events for Transgender Day of Remembrance. On November 18th the Mayor will read a proclamation at the beginning of the city council meeting. On November 23rd a candlelight service will be held at the Turtle Boy statue in the Common and will move into the public library for a water ceremony and bell ringing.

5. Old Business

a. Planning for Eleanor Hawley Award and Human Rights Day Celebration (December 9th, 2014)- Tabled

b. LGBTQ shelter survey - Tabled

c. Events calendar update –Tabled

d. Commissioners’ update on championing a cause efforts - Tabled

6. Commissioners’ Reports: Tabled

7. Location of next monthly meeting (December 1st, 2014): City Hall

8. Public Comment

Gordon Davis shared that a community group is also planning a celebration for United Nations Human Rights Day. He passed out a flyer and asked the Commission to consider co-sponsoring. The event will be on December 10th at Worcester State University.

9. Adjournment at 7:10pm due to loss of quorum.