

Chairperson
Aaron Richman

Vice-chairperson
Cara Berg Powers

Clerk
Elizabeth O'Callahan



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:
Lilian Chukwurah
Robyn Kennedy
Jose Medina Santos
Luis Portillo Reyes
Edward G. Robinson
Jacqueline Yang

**Monthly Meeting Summary – Monday, April 2nd, 2018, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, 4th Floor, 455 Main St., Worcester, MA**

Members present: Lilian Chukwurah, Elizabeth O'Callahan, Luis Portillo Reyes, Aaron Richman, Edward Robinson, Jacqueline Yang

Members absent: Cara Berg Powers, Robyn Kennedy, Jose Medina Santos

Staff: Jayna Turchek

1. Call to order and introductions

A quorum was established and Chairperson Richman called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. Commissioners introduced themselves. The Chairperson welcomed the Commissioners and those present.

2. Approval of March 5th, 2018 meeting minutes

Commissioner Portillo Reyes motioned to amend the minutes to reflect that he was present.

Clerk O'Callahan motioned to mark Commissioner Yang absent. Commissioner Chukwurah motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Robinson seconded.

3. New Business:

A. Follow up regarding HRC request for City to continue to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

- Director Turchek provided a follow up to HRC's request for more information
- Plans to attach exhibit to City contracts with HUD recipients that include language for marketing nondiscrimination language and activities
- Director Turchek will continue to work with Executive Office of Economic Development on how to affirmatively further housing
- Under AFFH, the Analysis of Impediments (AI) was going to be replaced with the more comprehensive Affirmatively Furthering Fair Action Report (FHA)
 - There is now question around whether to follow AI or FHA
- Most recent AI done about 6 years ago. Will be redone in the coming year.
- Follow up Training:
 - Annual Fair Housing Training from CLA for HRC in coming months
- Questions for follow-up:
 - Pg 2 Housing Cost Burdens
 - How do they identify properties?
 - Are these units accessible?



OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITIES, CITY HALL ROOM 101
455 MAIN ST., WORCESTER, MA 01608
TELEPHONE (508) 799-8486 | FAX (508) 799-1218



- City Manager appointed short term (60-90 day) Taskforce on Sustaining Housing First Solutions-
 - Focus on adult chronic homelessness - affordability, access
- Next public listening Forum 6/13 5pm at Worcester Public Library

B. Review of civil rights observances calendar and recommendations for activities and tips

- Observances uploaded on City Calendar on City’s website
- Partly educational, and partly based on activities
 - Religious Observances
 - Civil Rights and Cultural Observances
- Opportunity to create a visual, publicly accessible platform that can help guide our work
- One goal: To be able to provide some tips around observances:
 - “Today is the day of a random act of kindness”
- Questions for Commissioners:
 - Are there any missing?
 - Are there things we should be doing as a commission in terms of outreach effort
 - How can we bring this into our larger work? Planning, research, partnerships etc.
 - Is there a larger awareness campaign to think about?
 - Should there be a theme for each month?
 - What are some deliverables; Products, events, videos?
- Social Media outreach
 - Constant contact – The calendar entries will have a separate Constant Contact subscription
 - HRC hiring Community Relations Specialist - social media will be part of that role
- Feedback on a Monthly Theme:
 - Observances around a monthly theme should not be at the exclusion of others in a month
 - Break these down and ensure observances within the month are mentioned every week
 - Have it follow with work the Commission is already doing
 - Example: WPD coming in June, National Night Out on 8/7

Upcoming Observances:

4/11 Fair Housing Act Passed in 1968

4. Old Business:

A. Planning for meeting on police community relations

- Rescheduled for June
- Advertising: Flyer for the meeting
 - Expectations should be clear on the flyer- what do we want to achieve out of this meeting
 - Save the Date to go out in April flyer “Conversation with Chief on Community Policing”
- Limited Opportunity for Public Comment
 - Presentation will be pretty content-heavy
- Commissioners will take tour of precinct at Union Station
- Ensure Advertising adequately communicates expectations
 - Topics listed on flyer
- Phrase as presentation instead of forum
- Provide the following information at the outset of the meeting:
 - Survey from neighborhood watch meetings
 - Handouts with Neighborhood Watch Information at the beginning of meeting
 - Provide contact information for WPD to submit questions
 - Contact information for Neighborhood Watch Officer assigned to specific neighborhoods
 - General one from WPD website

- Will this be advertised at neighborhood Watch Meetings?

Opportunities for additional venues

Call-ins

- Update: May have every meeting surveyed by meeting in June
- Could pass those out at the meeting
- Request to come to QCC - should we continue in same form?

5. Notice: Worcester Fair Housing Project presents: Criminal Records and Access to Housing Monday April 30th, 2018, 5:30-7:30pm, City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber

Join the City of Worcester and Community Legal Aid for a conversation about access to safe, affordable housing for people with criminal records. We will discuss collateral consequences in the age of mass incarceration, barriers to housing and the impact on children and families, the HUD guidance that addresses housing provider use of criminal records, and multiple other topics. There will be a panel of speakers as well as time for dialogue between panelists and attendees about the impact this has on our community.

6. Notice: Upcoming Citizen Advisory Council meeting to discuss HRC recommendations related to threshold question for applicants to boards and commissions: April 23rd, 6:30pm

Chairperson Richman asked Commissioners to submit any relevant thoughts or questions for him to present to the CAC on behalf of the Human Rights Commission.

7. Location of next meeting (May 7th, 2018): City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

8. Adjournment at 8:05 pm