

Chairperson
Aaron Richman

Vice-chairperson
Jacqueline Yang

Clerk
Elizabeth O'Callahan



Members:
Lilian Chukwurah
Edward G. Robinson
Tracey Weeden

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

**Monthly Meeting Summary – Thursday, May 9th, 2019, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, Room 401, 4th Floor, 455 Main St., Worcester, MA**

Members present: Aaron Richman, Elizabeth O'Callahan, Edward Robinson, Jacqueline Yang, Lilian Chukwurah, Tracey Weeden

Staff: Jayna Turchek

1. Call to order and introductions

A quorum was established and Chairperson Richman officially called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Commissioners introduced themselves. The Chairperson welcomed Commissioners.

2. Approval of May 6th, 2019 meeting minutes

Item tabled

3. Old Business:

A. Planning conversation for annual meeting with Worcester Police Department (June 3rd, 2019)

Clerk O'Callahan provided an update of Neighborhood Watch Meeting Survey Initiative, and summarized the prior work, and the joint meeting with the police department in June 2018.

- Community Safety Work Plan came from Subcommittee work collected from dialogues on race
- In 2017, the Human Rights Commission identified the need to collect data on the nature of the city's neighborhood watch meetings to be able to make informed recommendations
- 2017-2018 Preliminary round of surveys distributed to 17 meetings, with preliminary findings shared at June 2018 joint meeting with Worcester Police Department
- Work continued, partnered with a number of local colleges and universities to reach every
- In addition to survey distribution, listening sessions were held with meeting organizers and members of the Neighborhood Response Team, who attend all of the meetings
- Additional meeting possible to provide more comprehensive data to inform additional recommendations



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- An organizer feedback form was developed, as well as a questionnaire for officers
 - Questions similar to those asked on the original survey for meeting attendees

Discussion of June 2019 Joint Meeting with Worcester Police Department

Director Turchek submitted the following requests:

- Annual BOPS Report
- Annual Hate crimes report
- Status update relative to the pilot project relative to body cameras
- Public surveillance policy questions

Proposed meeting format:

- 6-6:15 - Introductions and Overview
 - Inform members of the public that there will be opportunity for questions at the end
 - Ask public to be prepared to public comments to 3 minutes each
 - Any questions that are not answered due to time constraints will forwarded to the police department for the next meeting
- 6:15-6:45 - Neighborhood Meeting Survey Initiative Presentation
 - 20 minutes for Powerpoint Presentation similar to 2018 meeting
 - 10 minutes for questions
- 6:45-7:45 - Police Department Presentation 45 minutes
- 7:45-8:30 - Questions from members of the public

Neighborhood Meeting Survey Initiative Presentation

Clerk O’Callahan reviewed proposed recommendations based on data, as well as the proposed format of the presentation

- Change name universally to “Neighborhood Meetings”
- Provide information, training (as requested) and resources for organizers:
- Host an semi-annual organizer meeting
- Increase access and opportunity for city integration: Move meetings to days other than Tuesdays to facilitate city official attendance
- Improve outreach to increase attendance
- Identify/Reach consensus of who within the city is responsible for supporting organizers and to follow through with the other recommendations

Motion: Clerk O’Callahan motioned to request the city solicitor to provide clarification on whether the Neighborhood Watch Meetings were considered public meetings. Vice Chairperson Yang seconded

Motion passed with five in favor and one against

4. Next meeting: Monday, June 3rd, 2019 at 6:00 PM, City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

- Members of Worcester Police Department will be in attendance

5. Adjournment at 8:36 pm