

Chairperson
Aaron Richman

Vice chairperson
Cara Berg Powers

Clerk
Lillie Williams



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:
Shawna Curran
Kathleen Gervais
Izaida Gonzalez
Robyn Kennedy
Sean Lauziere
Ike McBride

Monthly Meeting – Monday December 7th, 2015, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

Members Present: Aaron Richman, Cara Berg Powers, Lillie Williams, Shawna Curran, Robyn Kennedy, Sean Lauziere, Izaida Gonzalez, and Kathleen Gervais

Members Absent: Ike McBride

Staff: Jayna Turchek

- 1. Call to Order:** A quorum was established and Human Rights Commission Chair, Aaron Richman, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. The Chair welcomed the Commissioners. Everyone introduced himself or herself. Welcome to our newest member Sean Lauziere.
- 2. Approval of November 2nd, 2015 minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.

3. Old Business

A. Subcommittee: Dialogues on Race recommendations

The Chair gave Sean a brief update on the conversations the committee has had around the Race Dialogues. Shawna gave a report back on the Subcommittee, which has met twice since our last general meeting. She reported the following: they agreed to develop the work in phases and wanted to prioritize communicating with the public in both traditional and non-traditional channels, including in multi-languages. The subcommittee also discussed expanding the subcommittee membership but no decisions were sought today.

Shawna attended a meeting of the City Manager's Community Coalition Against Bias and Hate. A subcommittee of this Coalition reviewed the compiled notes and put together the top themes from each evening. The HRC subcommittee did not see the need to duplicate and would like to accept the Coalition's themes as a starting point to develop action steps. This was discussed and agreed upon by the whole Commission.



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The subcommittee recommended that the Commission first focus on addressing concerns identified around Representative Government and Public Safety. There was a motion to move this forward as a priority for January – March; the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed where things were last left after the staff from the Worcester Police Department Bureau of Professional Standards (BOPS) met with the Commission last year. The quarterly reports were not in a format that the Commission felt were useful and the Commission agreed they need to revisit this conversation. Jayna will request last year's quarterly reports and the subcommittee will be charged with reviewing the minutes from the last meeting with BOPS and draft a series of questions in preparation for another meeting with BOPS in February.

B. Review of shelter survey

Aaron reported on Veterans Inc. The facility at 69 Grove St. is a male only transitional program and accepts all males, including Transgender. They would find handouts, posters and other information materials helpful.

The Commission agreed to wrap up the shelter surveys and respond to the shelters. Cara will lead and Robyn will support her in the development of a summary of the results of the surveys.

All Commissioners were asked to go back to their shelter contacts and request copies of their anti-discrimination policies if they have not already been obtained.

C. Review online social media policy

The Commission reviewed the questions posed in the last meeting. The most active social media site appeared to be for the police. The Commission raised concerns about the department sharing addresses of persons arrested on social media sites. Aaron offered to draft a letter to the city manager that would list the questions from today and the last meeting and request further clarification before specific recommendations of edits to the policy are put forward. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Participation in St. Patricks' Day Parade (Sunday March 13th)

The commissioners agreed to walk in the parade and Jayna will register the Commission.

5. Commissioners Report: Tabled

6. Location of Next Meeting (January 4th, 2016): Southeast Asian Coalition, 484 Main Street, Suite 400 (4th floor)

7. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual): none

8. Adjournment: 8:04pm