

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.  
City Manager



**CITY OF WORCESTER**  
**Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**

Heather Borelli  
Kayanna James  
Ariel Lim, Vice Chairperson  
Coretta McCarter, Chairperson  
Samantha Sendrowski  
Casey Thomas  
Tracey Whitney  
Rubby Wuabo

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday October 6, 2020, 5:45 PM**

Virtual meeting on Cisco WebEx: [advisorycommitteeonthestatusofwomenwebex@cow.webex.com](mailto:advisorycommitteeonthestatusofwomenwebex@cow.webex.com)

Call in number: 415-655-0001; Access code: 160 850 2789

This meeting was not live streamed. A video recording is posted on the city website.

**Members Present:** Heather Borelli, Kayanna James, Ariel Lim, Coretta McCarter, Samantha Sendrowski, Casey Thomas, Tracey Whitney, Rubby Wuabo

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek

**Call to order, introductions and welcome to new members, and instructions for virtual participation**

Chairperson Mc Carter called the meeting to order at 5:55pm. Introductions were made and three new Committee members were introduced and welcomed: Kayanna James, Samantha Sendrowski and Rubby Wuabo. Director Turchek gave instructions for public participation.

**Review and approval of September 1, 2020 meeting minutes**

Commissioner Lim made a motion to approve minutes as written and Commissioner Borelli seconded to approve the September 1, 2020 meeting minutes. All approved.

**New Business:**

Committee agreed to move order of items listed on the agenda to B, A, D and C. These minutes reflect those changes.

**Paying tribute to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg:**

The Committee felt acknowledging the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg was important given her role of bringing justice to women.

Members shared reflections:

- Sad, she was an important icon.
- Offer of quote that went something like: "If you own a home or have a credit card... she gave you that independence" giving tribute for being able to be an independent woman in this world.
- Encouraged the reading of Ginsberg's books and remembering she was an advocate of all human rights not just for women.
- Suggested listening to various podcasts where she talks about her life and struggles as a new attorney
- Suggestion to pay tribute to her during the 2021 Women of Consequence Awards
- She was 87 years old and a fighter.

c/o Jayna Turchek, Director of Human Rights & Accessibility  
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### **Impact and reflections on Breonna Taylor grand jury decision**

The Chairwoman introduced this item with the reminder that this committee would not necessarily be needed if there was equality. Although situations like this are painful, conversations need to be had. Members offered their thoughts:

- There is no police accountability
- Disappointment, when were police that appear to be guilty of crimes going to be found guilty? Situations like this continue to divide the country and fuel the ongoing protests. This has frustrated people of color and how will it affect generations to come?
- Was not surprised, felt like I was hit by a truck, could be me or anyone.
- Again disappointing and not surprised. A daughter came to mother and asked what if that happened to me. A child should not have to deal with this situation.

### **Committee's Commitment for Change Statement**

Chairperson suggested doing a commitment of change maybe instead of a statement about Black Lives Matter; Thus making the focus on the committee's work.

Discussion included: How to bring accountability to issues addressed by board? What do we do with the statement There needs to be follow up. A call to action is a good way to go.

The Committee agreed to do the following

- Develop a statement of commitment about change and action.
- Also issue a Statement on Black Lives Matter

### **We Are the Women of Worcester campaign and poster series**

There was support for continuing the Women of Worcester campaign and poster series using this project as the action identified in the Commitment for Change Statement. Recognize women's role in Worcester beyond the firsts/who has broken barriers. Example Why Worcester, Traditionally male dominated work. Think about creating a mentorship day with a goal of matching 100 girls with mentors. Can a database be created for young women to find mentors, open access search could be limited to name, title, field etc.

### **Notice of election of officers**

Next month there will be election of officers. There are two officers: Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Discussion: How is CoVID 19 affecting the family structure?**

There is an increase in numbers of domestic violence cases. These cases are more serious It is sad to see families living where the abuser has control and one cannot go anywhere and finances are tight etc. The Committee may want to think about putting out a statement about this. Action item: review DV resources and make available.

Concern for children and collateral damage; maybe an opportunity knowing the issues; Might want to advocate for more child care etc.

Women's employment situation is tenuous: Women losing and leaving jobs at a greater pace. Going back to work will likely be harder. Employers might think they are unreliable if they left to help with children. The Committee might consider a statement that would help mothers go back to work.

The holidays are coming and often a time of depression for people.

Worcester is at high risk for Covid-19. This is the third week in a row Worcester has been in the red zone.

Reminder that free Covid testing continues. Flu shots are required by December 2020 to go to school and some in state are resisting.

### **Review planning document for virtual forum on "The Talk: preparing children for police encounters"**

A planning document will be prepared and sent out for members review and suggestions for decisions next month.

### **Planning for 2021 Women of Consequence Awards**

The platform for receiving and reviewing nominations was discussed in light of the difficulty had last year. Director Turchek agreed to talk with the School IT Department to determine best way to be able to secure nominations from that department to avoid a firewall.

Outreach was discussed. Many nominations came from out of school programs. Committee would develop a script and put together a list of those programs and do personal outreach. How do students learn that a young woman was chosen? Maybe have a virtual block party.

Goal is to have 50 applications. Anyone can nominate.

Committee agreed by consensus that the 2021 Women of Consequence Awards will be held in March to coincide with International Women's Day. The Mentor Day would be targeted for the month of August to coincide with Women's Equality Day. The Mentor Day and the Women of Worcester campaign and poster contest could be launched during the Women of Consequence Awards and culminate on the Mentor Day in August.

**Next Meeting:** November 10, 2020 at 5:45pm (Remember November 3 is Election Day- Please vote!)

**Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm**