

**Chairperson**  
Edward G. Robinson

**Vice-Chair**  
Jeremy Fontain

**Clerk**  
Julie Feeney



**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission**

**Members:**  
Cara Berg Powers  
Harry Danso  
Kathleen Gervais  
Edward Kwiypup  
Eduardo Rivera  
Barbara Zerillo

**November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Harry Danso, Jeremy Fontain, Kathleen Gervais, Eduardo Rivera, and Edward G. Robinson

**Members Absent:** Julie Feeney, Edward Kwiypup, Cara Berg Powers, and Barbara Zerillo

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek, Director of Human Rights and Disabilities  
Catherine Nash, Human Rights Specialist

**1. Call to Order:**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

**2. Introductions:**

A motion was passed to skip the introductions.

**3. Approval of October 7, 2013 meeting minutes:**

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

**4. New Business:**

**a) Mediation video presentations in the community**

**i. Video Premier: Clark University (November 6, 2013, 7-9pm)**

Jeremy confirmed that Paul Ropp from the Center for Nonviolent Solutions would be giving the introduction.

Outreach:

- Jeremy worked with Worcester State University professors to share event announcement to students. The event was also announced at Worcester State University's Third World Alliance Club. Jeremy spoke with the YMCA, Greendale Branch.
- Kathy spoke with YWCA, Everyday Miracles and posted the flyer at the Worcester Main Library, the Senior Center and St. John's soup kitchen.



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- Edward Robinson spoke with PFLAG, Shrewsbury Street Neighborhood Association, and the African Community Education Program (ACE).
- Members agreed to make reminder emails and calls tomorrow (November 5<sup>th</sup>) to encourage people to come to the event.

Event volunteers: Jeremy and Edward Robinson will arrive early to help direct people from the entrance to the theatre. Jeremy will print 20 campus maps of the Jefferson Building.

Light snacks: Jayna ordered popcorn, cookies, soda and coffee for the event.

Program: Jeremy will email Jayna the program and Jayna will have them printed.

**ii. Future presentations in the community**

The Commission discussed sharing the mediation videos in the community. Members made suggestions about possible locations to hold upcoming monthly meetings, present a video and facilitate a conversation about community mediation.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Youth Essay and Poster Contest**

Cara was not present to report on the progress of the contest and did not provide Jayna with materials in advance of the meeting. Jayna suggested another theme for the contest with a different deadline to allow for better planning. She suggested fair housing be the theme of the contest and the awardees could be recognized during April Fair Housing Awareness month. The Office has begun the initial planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Worcester Fair Housing Conference and a youth contest would help to promote the conference as well.

Members discussed the possibility of changing the topic from year to year and acknowledged that when the contest was attempted last year the timing was also an issue. Members discussed possible contest guidelines and award selection and presentation. Edward Robinson proposed limiting the contest to middle and/or high school aged students. Eduardo Rivera suggested that each school select the top poster and the finalists from each school would be invited to attend a Human Rights Commission meeting at city hall and present their poster. Jeremy suggested a certificate be awarded to the winners. Edward Robinson suggested gold, silver and bronze categories. It was suggested that the posters could also be displayed in city hall. The guidelines for the poster contest will be discussed at the next meeting along with a contest description. Each Commission member will prepare a short couple lines about what fair housing is or is not and the members will draft an introductory paragraph to the award announcement at the December meeting.

- b. National Transgender Remembrance Day (November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013)**  
Mayor Petty will read a proclamation at the city council meeting on Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Jesse Pack from Aids Project Worcester will accept the proclamation on behalf of the community. Edward Robinson and Harry Danso will attend in support.

**6. Commissioners' Reports**

- Eduardo Rivera received an invitation from the Worcester Immigrant Coalition to appear on Channel 13 and to present at a forum at the library. He was given too little notice and did not participate as there was not time to discuss with the Commission or staff. He reported that the Worcester Immigrant Coalition is interested in re-starting. He will let the Commission know of any future events.
- Kathy attended the National Domestic Violence Service held behind City Hall in memory of last year's victims of domestic violence and she attended the film screening by Shared Hope Interventions about sex trafficking at the library.
- Jeremy attended the top latino business owners award hosted by the Women in Enterprise at Worcester State University.
- Harry referred a member of the Ghanaian community to the office of human rights and disabilities. He stated that many in the Ghanaian community do not know their rights. He said there are 20,000 registered Ghanaians in Worcester and he wants to organize an event for the community.
- Edward Robinson attended the Shrewsbury Street Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting, the African Community Education Program (ACE) award dinner, and the Indian Lake Hearing #2 held by the Parks Division.

- 7. Location of Next Meeting (December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013):** TBD, default is City Hall

**8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no additional business the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission  
Planning Calendar**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (October- December 2013)**

1. Mediation video community screening (November 6<sup>th</sup>)
2. Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20<sup>th</sup>)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (January- March 2014)**

1. Mediation video community presentations
2. Poster contest for Fair Housing Month

Monthly Meeting – Monday November 4th, 2013, 6pm  
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber (3rd floor)

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of October 7th, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. New Business:
  - a) Mediation video presentations in the community
5. Old Business:
  - a) Youth Essay and Poster Contest
  - b) Transgender Day of Remembrance
6. Commissioners' Reports
7. Location of Next Meeting (December 2nd, 2013)
8. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
9. Adjournment

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The Human Rights Commission is dedicated to its service of safeguarding the civil liberties of all persons who live or work in Worcester. May the public kindly take notice to respect the order and decorum of the meeting. Please silence all cell phones and similar electronic devices. Refrain from speaking on cell phones or to others until recognized by the Chair that you have the floor.