



Michael V. O'Brien  
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

**Human Rights Commission Meeting Summary  
February 7, 2011 6:00 p.m.  
Esther Howland Chamber**

Present: Kathleen Gervais, Cheryl Pope, Edward Robinson, Cara Berg-Powers, Eduardo Rivera, Mable Millner

Guests: Herbert Cremer, Gordon Davis

Staff: James Estrella, Christina Andreoli, Ines Beron

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.
- II. Approval of January Meetings – Not Able to Approve Minutes
- III. Overview of Transition Plan
- IV. Voting for a New Chair – Nominee Eduardo Rivera, Seconded by Edward Robinson. Vice Chair – Cara Berg Powers. Commission took on a vote to identify Chair. Kathy Jervais Made a Motion to Name Eduardo Chair. Unanimous Vote by Commission. Eduardo Rivera Made a Motion to Name Cara Berg Powers Vice Chair. Unanimous Vote by Commission.
- V. What To Do When the Police Stop You Brochure. Final version of the card needs to be approved. Eduardo made a donation of \$100.00 to print the brochures. Presentation and Distribution of Brochures to Centros Las Americas; Friendly House; Southeast Asian Coalition Center; Jewish Community Center; African Community Center; Worcester Youth Center, Worcester Senior Center; Great Brook Valley Health Center. Panels – representatives from WPD (possibly Sgt. Hazelhurst); CM Office; Human Rights Commission; Legal Assistance Corporation; Immigration Community; Friendly House. Time Frame: Spring. James will reach out to these partners and schedule a date for trainings.
- VI. Cara Suggestion – HOPE Coalition; Civics Initiative. Cara will get contact information for Oak Hill CDC.
- VII. YWCA – Stand Against Racism Meetings. Representatives Needed from Commission. Eduardo Rivera will be attending meetings. Christina Andreoli will reach out to Linda Cavioli. City of Worcester Co-Sponsors event. The event is the last Friday in April. Fran has helped organize event with speakers and a rally in the past.



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- VIII. Chief Gemme – Secure Cities and Restraints for the March meeting. Chief Gemme’s Informational Presentation on Secure Cities and the Use of Restraints. Town of Holden is doing this. Secure Cities – MOU (not law) with FBI and ICE in other communities. Providing Feds with Immigration Status. Stopped/Arrested and given to ICE database. Legal Understanding. Conversation on where this is. 45 Minutes. 6:20 PM
- IX. City Solicitor – To Explain the Roles and Responsibilities of Office of Human Rights regarding the CORI Ordinance. Discrepancies in State and City Ordinances. Approximately 15 Minutes for the presentation. 6 PM. Voting Rights for Criminal Records.
- X. Workforce Central – CORI check. Steve Freeman. James Estrella to follow-up on employees.
- XI. Cheryl’s last meeting is April. Timeline for the HRC Materials/Brochure/ Mission Statement.
- XII. Outreach to Youth, Elementary, Middle, High and Colleges, in Preparing a Program to educate this group on specific issues – Bullying. What are Human Rights? How can you assist? Cheryl suggested that Eduardo contact Rachel Brown – Disabilities Commission will take the lead on Bullying Issue.
- XIII. Attorney General to Hold Hearings on the Anti-Bullying Law in Springfield.
- XIV. Thursday, February 10 at 4:30 PM – Cheryl Pope, Mable Millner, Rachel Brown to meet with City Manager re: Fran’s position. Will discuss a Part-Time Position Possibility. Suggestions: Legal Expertise, Bilingual or Trilingual. All three met with Mayor O’Brien. Cheryl will confirm with the Mayor’s Office of a date, time and place of Fran’s reception and notify the Human Rights Commission members.
- XV. Commission – Cheryl’s term expires in April. Commission suggested a candidate with a legal background would be helpful. New Chair should attend the next Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to follow-up. Cheryl asked James about the term expiration date for Maria Florez – can be reappointed to the Commission for one more term.
- XVI. Request to have microphone set-up for their meetings. Open Meeting Law – Posting Meetings. Request for a copy of the School Committee Submission to the State regarding Anti-Bullying – James Estrella to follow-up.
- XVII. Next Meeting – Monday, March 7, 2011. Esther Howland Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor City Hall. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**