

Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager



CITY OF WORCESTER

Human Rights Commission Meeting Summary
April 4, 2011 6:00 p.m.
Esther Howland Chamber

Present: Cheryl Pope, Edward Robinson, Eduardo Rivera, Mable Millner, Edward Kwiyup, Kathleen Gervais

Guests: Herbert Cremer, Disabilities Commission

Staff: James Estrella, Staff Liaison

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m.
- II. Approval of March Meeting Minutes – Approved as is.
- III. Updates:
 - a. Know Your Rights Outreach Plan
 - i. Eduardo Rivera will send the “What to do when stopped by the police” card to a print company this week. It will take up to 5 working days to print. There will be 2,500 in English and 2,500 Spanish.
 - ii. Cheryl, Chair, informed the Commission that Trinh Huynh submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately – the chair read the contents of the letter to the commission.
 - iii. Eduardo will seek alternative methods to present the Know Your Rights Outreach to the Vietnamese community.
 - b. Human Rights Commission Bumper Sticker
 - i. Edward Robinson printed 250 bumper sticker. The stickers are yellow with brown print and displays the Human Rights Commission phone number. – the bumper sticker has not yet been approved by the City Manager to be distributed to the public.
 - c. Human Rights Commission Brochure
 - i. Eduardo Rivera informed the Commission that he requested Cara revise the mission statement and forward updates to all.
 - d. Civic Initiative – Hope Coalition
 - i. Item tabled until May meeting
 - e. Social Justice Round Table
 - i. Kathy Garvis attending the Social Justice Round Table meeting on 3/31/2011. The meeting a panel discussion to encourage people of diverse populations to get involved in local government. Kathy also updated the Commission on the Stand Against Racism event sponsored by the YWCA. The event will be on hold a public speaking event at 9AM at the YWCA and a rally in the Worcester Common from 3pm-5pm on **April 29th, 2011**. The next social justice roundtable meeting is TBD.



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- IV. New Business:
 - a. Human Rights Commission Schedule
 - i. The commission approved of the Human Rights Commission meeting schedule dates (see attached).

- V. Public Comment:
 - a. Herb Cremer, Disabilities Commission, spoke to Commission about a list of inquires/complaints filed with the Disabilities Office – one in particular regarding a bullying situation at WPS. Mr. Cremer wanted to know what penalties were established at WPS when their teachers do not enforce the anti-bullying policy.
 - i. Mable Millner motioned to invite the appropriate person from WPS to speak to the Commission on this. – Commission asked James to determine who would be appropriate and follow up with Eduardo Rivera.

- VI. Under Suspension:
 - a. Cheryl Pope, Chair, request James Estrella to report to the Commission members if there have been any candidates for the Human Rights Commission by the Citizens Advisory Council during their selection meeting on March 30, 2011. James will follow up.
 - b. Fair Housing Training – the Commission members selected **Thursday, May 19th, 2011** as the date for the mandatory Fair Housing Training. James Estrella will secure date and time, and confirm with the Commission members.
 - c. Cheryl Pope, Chair, updated the commission on the request to have Chief Gemme speak on Secure Cities. Chief Gemme is waiting to see what the State will be doing. Cheryl presented information on the ICE Secure Cities program and internet links to news articles on the topic to the commission members. She also informed the Commission that the state is having a series of public hearings on the topic.
 - d. Cheryl Pope requested the Commission confirm their contact information using the contact list that James sent out to the commission members in March, and provide James with any necessary changes.
 - e. Mable Millner, updated the Commission on the City Manager’s Coalition to Prevent Bias & Hate. James Estrella, Jesse Edwards, and Linda Cavaioli attended the Spring Wellness Meetings with Worcester Public Schools to deliver the “Respect: It’s the Way to Play” Pledge to the WPS Students who wish to play sports.
 - f. Mable Millner informed the Commission that the Worcester Chapter of the NAACP has been re-activated. Mr. Ravi Perry is the President of the Worcester Chapter – there are more than 50 members.
 - g. The Commission thanked Cheryl Pope for her years of service on the Human Rights Commission. Cheryl expressed her appreciation in being a part of their efforts and progress that has been made.

Respectfully submitted by: James Estrella, Staff Liaison

Next Meeting
Monday, May 2, 2011.
Esther Howland Chamber, 3rd floor City Hall
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.