



Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

**Human Rights Commission Meeting Summary
August 1, 2011 6:00 p.m.
Esther Howland Chamber**

Present: Edward Robinson, Eduardo Rivera, Edward Kwiyup, Cara Berg Powers, Edward Kwiyup, Harry Danso, Kathleen Gervais

Not present: Mable Millner

Guests: Herbert Cremer, Disabilities Commission;

Staff: Ines Beron, Office of Human Rights; James Estrella, Staff Liaison

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

- II. Approval of July Meeting Minutes – July minutes approved

- III. Old Business
 - a. Know Your Rights Campaign – Eduardo requested James Estrella to follow up with WPD on their review of the Draft Presentation submitted in June. Eduardo and Harry briefed the commission on the format of the presentation. The presentation will be held at several locations starting in September 2011 – August 2012. Outreach campaign will include press release in local media outlets.
 - b. Cara motioned to approve the presentation format, Edward Robinson second- all in favor.

- IV. New Business:
 - a. The Commission discussed the list of initiatives and ranked them in priority. The Youth for Human Rights Initiative/ U.N. Human Rights Day and Review of Human Rights Commission Ordinance has been placed on hold until the Part Time Director Position is filled. All approved.
 - i. Cara requested James include Anti-Bullying Outreach initiative in the list. James will address.
 - b. Eduardo spoke to the idea for the Commissioners to do community outreach by attending neighborhood watch meetings and other community group meetings.
 - i. Edward Robinson made a motion to form a subcommittee group to begin developing a plan of action. – all approved. Edward Robinson, Edward Kwiyup, and Kathy Gervais were elected to subcommittee.
 - ii. James reminded the commissioners to be mindful of the additional volunteer time and efforts this may or may not impose on some of the commissioners.
 - iii. Cara made a motion to contact the Youth Center and request their space for the September Human Rights Commission. All Approved. Harry offered to place the call and follow up with James.



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- c. Harry would like the commission to strategize an outreach and education program specific to the Ghanaian community in Spring 2012. Eduardo Rivera recommended the Refugee community be included as well. Harry informed the commission that he will develop an outreach plan to present to the commission early 2012.
- V. Staff Liaison Report:
- i. James provided informational communication relative to the status of the Part Time Director of Human Rights and Disabilities Office. Applications were submitted, but no interviews have been scheduled at this time.
 - ii. Ines Beron, Housing Intake Coordinator, Office of Human Rights provided an update in her case work. Ms. Beron's outreach is increasing the amount of intake she has done in the last two months.
- VI. Public Comment:
- a. Herb Cremer requested James Estrella send him the May and June meeting summary.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: James Estrella, Staff Liaison

Next Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2011.
TBD
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.