



Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

**Human Rights Commission Meeting Summary
September 12, 2011 6:00 p.m.
Esther Howland Chamber**

Present: Edward Robinson, Eduardo Rivera, Cara Berg Powers, Edward Kwiyp, Kathleen Gervais, Mable Millner

Guests: Gordon Davis, Worcester Immigrant Coalition; Jackie Norton, City Resident

Staff: James Estrella, Staff Liaison

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.
- II. Approval of August Meeting Minutes – August minutes approved
- III. Old Business
 - a. Know Your Rights Campaign – progress is being made to secure dates throughout the community to host the presentations, confirm panelists.
 - b. Human rights Commission and City Districts – Mable Millner motioned to have subcommittee formed during the August commission meeting, to develop a plan of action and objectives to present for the next meeting – all approved.
- IV. New Business:
 - a. Human Rights Commission Quarterly Calendar – Eduardo Rivera, Chair, spoke to this item. He would like the commission to consider putting a quarterly time period to complete any initiative. The chair opened the idea to discussion. All members confirmed that this has already been completed during the August meeting.
- V. Staff Liaison Report:
 - i. James provided informational communication relative to the status of the Part Time Director of Human Rights and Disabilities Office. An estimated 8-11 applications were submitted, but no interviews have been scheduled at this time. The position may be posted again in hopes to increase the number of applicants.
 - ii. Ines Beron, Housing Intake Coordinator, Office of Human Rights was unable to attend the meeting. James provided an update in her case work. Ms. Beron will be attending the Pride Parade in September.
- VI. Public Comment:
 - a. Gordon Davis submitted questions through the chair to forward to WPD Chief Gemme to respond to regarding Secure Communities legislation and the City of Worcester. Eduardo requested James to forward to Chief Gemme on behalf of



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resident and Human rights Commission for a response. In addition, Eduardo requested James follow up with Chief Gemme regarding his report to Council regarding Secure Communities. James will follow up. Cara Berg Powers, Vice-Chair, made a motion to for the Commission to host a Public Hearing regarding Secure Communities in the City of Worcester. Date for public hearing to be determined after Chief Gemme's response to questions and report. – All approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: James Estrella, Staff Liaison

Next Meeting
Monday, October 3, 2011.
TBD
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.