

Chairperson
Eduardo Rivera

Vice-Chair
Cara Berg Powers



Members:
Harry Danso
Kathleen Gervais
Edward Kwiyp
Mable Millner
Edward G. Robinson
Udeme Ukpong

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Summary
Monday March 4th, 2013, 6pm
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
1st Floor Auditorium, 19 Foster St, Worcester, MA**

Members Present: Cara Berg Powers, Eduardo Rivera, Harry Danso, Edward G. Robinson, Edward Kwiyp

Members Absent: Kathleen Gervais, Mable Milner, Udeme Ukpong

Staff: Jayna Turchek, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities, Caitlin Alcorn, Intern for the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

Guests: Kyla Pacheco from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

1. Call to Order:

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

2. Introductions:

The Commission introduced themselves.

3. Approval of February 4, 2013 Minutes:

Commission unanimously voted to approve minutes as written.

4. Old Business:

a) Youth and Human Rights

The Chairman informed the Commission that Jeffrey Miller resigned from the Human Rights Commission and thanked him for his service throughout his time as a member. Mr. Robinson suggested that because Mr. Miller was the head of this subcommittee and the other subcommittee member, Ms. Gervais, was not present, that this issue should be discussed at the next Commission meeting. Item tabled.



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b) LGBTQ education and awareness

Mr. Robinson explained that he, along with Ms. Pacheco, the staff advisor to the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Gay Straight Alliance, attended the SWAGLY meeting on February 28th from 5:30 – 6:30pm. Ms. Pacheco explained that she met with SWAGLY again today to discuss possible collaborations between them and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Gay Straight Alliance. Possible collaborations include holding a movie night, fundraising for the AIDS Walk, participation in the annual PRIDE event and mentoring. Mr. Robinson explained that he had been in contact with other LGBTQ organizations in Worcester and they are in the very preliminary stages of planning a summit or networking event. The Chairman confirmed the decision made at the last meeting to continue with Mr. Robinson at the point of contact and to not develop a subcommittee on this item. He will coordinate with the Office and report back to the Commission.

c) Mediation video collaboration

Mr. Danso explained that he has been in contact with the Center for Nonviolent Solutions and is waiting to hear back. He reminded the Commission that he will not be able to attend next month's meeting due to travel but will contact CNVS again before leaving on his trip. He planned to be in contact with Ms. Turчек by early next week with updates. Ms. Turчек gave a brief overview of the project for Mr. Kwiyp who was not present for the last meeting.

d) Sexual exploitation educational materials

The Chairman reviewed the minutes from the last meeting at which it was decided that Ms. Berg Powers, with the help of other Commission members, would look into initiatives already in place at schools and report back. Ms. Berg Powers explained that she had not yet looked comprehensively into current initiatives but would before the next Commission meeting. Ms. Turчек gave a brief overview of the project for Mr. Kwiyp who was not present for the last meeting. She also explained that the Division of Public Health Task Force on Prostitution report should be released in April or early May. There was a discussion on the specifics of the report and the potential role the Commission could play once the findings were made available.

e) April Fair Housing Conference

Ms. Turчек reviewed the discussion of this event that took place at the last meeting. Mr. Kwiyp, Mr. Robinson, and the Chairman said they would be available to table for the Commission at the event on April 6th.

f) Stand Against Racism

Ms. Berg Powers confirmed the screening of the documentary *The Central Park Five* on April 25th at the Worcester Youth Center as discussed at the last meeting. The Commission will co-sponsor the event which will include a discussion following the documentary as well as student projects. The Commission will also table at the Stand Against Racism event the following day. Mr. Robinson volunteered for this event. Ms. Berg Powers gave a brief overview of the documentary.

g) International Women's Day

Ms. Turчек reviewed the discussion on the event that took place at the last meeting, including the discussion on extending an invitation to the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (ACSW) for a possible joint mayoral proclamation. She explained that the ACSW did

not have quorum to hold a meeting last month so no proclamation was made. Ms. Alcorn read a statement on the significance of the day: “International Women’s Day started in the early 1900s in recognition of the work of women’s labor movements in Europe and the United States. It is now celebrated around the world and recognized by the United Nations as a day to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women. It serves as an important reminder of the struggles women have overcome in the past as well as those they continue to face today. The day also stands as an opportunity for groups and policymakers to mobilize around and strengthen efforts to achieve gender equality.”

5. Commissioners’ Report:

Members attended the following community events and activities:

- Compass Project Provider Network (Addressing Youth Homelessness in Worcester) press conference
- Bullying Prevention and Education Conference (BPEC) at South High Community School
- Pathways for Change V-Day flash mob for One Billion Rising

Mr. Robinson donated a video of the film Bully to the Human Rights Commission. Ms. Berg Powers gave Ms. Turчек a copy of the Worcester Public Schools Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. Mr. Rivera submitted a draft guidelines for subcommittee work to Ms. Turчек to be distributed to Commission members and reviewed at the next meeting. Mr. Robinson announced a SafeHomes fundraising event on March 5th, 2013 from 6-10pm at the Colonial Restaurant and Pub.

6. Office of Human Rights Director’s Report:

Ms. Turчек noted a recent article in the Worcester Magazine article that discussed disability access in Worcester and progress that is being made on the issue. She also discussed the police academy training she led on February 28th in which she covered topics of cultural diversity and human rights.

7. Location of Next Meeting:

The location for next month’s meeting (April 1, 2013) will be at City Hall.

8. Public Comment:

Ms. Pacheco offered her support for getting more city residents involved in the focus areas of the Commission.

9. Adjournment:

On a motion that was duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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

3rd Quarter (January-March)

1. Human trafficking/sexual exploitation materials
2. Transgender education and awareness
3. International Women's Day
4. Fair Housing Month (April)

4th Quarter (April-June)

1. May Day
2. Juneteenth
3. Loving Day

**Human Rights Commission
Monthly Meeting – Monday March 4th, 2013, 6pm
Location: Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
1st flr Auditorium, 19 Foster Street, Worcester, MA**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions (Commission Members and Guests)
3. Approval of February 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes

4. Old Business:
 - a) Youth and Human Rights
 - b) LGBTQ education and awareness
 - c) Mediation video collaboration
 - d) Sexual exploitation educational materials
 - e) April Fair Housing Conference
 - f) Stand Against Racism
 - g) International Women's Day
5. Commissioners' Report
6. Office of Human Rights Director's Report
7. Location of Next Meeting (April 1st, 2013): City Hall
8. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
9. Adjournment

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.