

Chairperson
Aaron Richman

Vice chairperson
Cara Berg Powers

Clerk
Lillie Williams



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:

Shawna Curran
Kathleen Gervais
Robyn Kennedy
Shirley Konneh
Ike McBride

Meeting Summary for July 6th, 2015
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

Members Present: Aaron Richman, Cara Berg Powers, Lillie Williams, Shawna Curran, Robyn Kennedy
Members Absent: Shirley Konneh, Ike McBride, Kathleen Gervais
Staff: Jayna Turchek

- 1. Call to Order:** A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:13pm by Human Rights Commission Chair, Aaron Richman. The Chair welcomed the Commissioners. Introductions were skipped.
- 2. Approval of April 6th minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.
May 4th minutes: Unanimously approved with an amendment to add Shawna Curran as being present.
June 2nd minutes: Unanimously approved along with one edit Lt. Saucier to be changed to Captain Saucier.
- 3. Old Business**

A. Review timeline/ assignments for shelter survey:

Jayna will provide the contacts for each shelter to members assigned to conduct survey. The list of places for the survey, and the volunteers are assigned. A motion to amend minutes from May 4th and add Aaron's name next to Veterans Inc. was seconded. The Commission agreed to add an additional location and Lillie Williams was assigned to conduct survey of Catholic Charities.

The preferred approach for conducting surveys is to make an appointment for a one on one interview. Our goal is to bring awareness of new requirements and to help them apply them as well as develop relationships. We can refer to the Commission's mission and purpose when conducting survey as well as share the latest HUD Notice for "Appropriate Placement for Transgender Persons in Single-Sex Emergency Shelters and Other Facilities."



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A clean copy of survey was sent out to Commissioners for use. Once survey is completed please send it back to Jayna before August 3rd, 2015.

B. Reflection on Joint Commission Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women and discussion with the Worcester Alliance against Sexual Exploitation (WAASE) co-chairs June 2nd

Aaron was immensely impressed by the tangible steps the police department took since our meeting in January. Robyn agreed that the police are taking things seriously. The work of WAASE is developing and the Commission agreed we want to support their work. The Commission needs to decide in what capacity: research, policy development, housing? Robyn will contact the liaison of WAASE and Chantel Bethea, the Chairperson of ACSW to see how we can coordinate efforts.

4. New Business

A. Review of Human Rights Commission FY15 report to the city manager

Aaron reviewed all of the minutes in the last year and drafted the Commission's report to the city manager. Cara suggested adding additional explanation of activities and pictures on a couple of highlighted events within the community, such as, Community Mapping Project, Eleanor Hawley Award, 2015 HRC Fair Housing Poster Contest.

B. Review of Chief Diversity Officer description

The Commission reviewed and commented on the draft description and agreed minority and women owned businesses would be capitalized as it refers to a term.

C. Reflection on Worcester Dialogue on Race

Tabled for a conversation after the July 13th dialogue session.

D. Suggestions for upcoming agenda items: none

5. Commissioners' Reports: none

6. Location of Next Meeting (August 3rd, 2015): Main South Community Development Corporation, 875 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610

7. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)

8. Adjournment: 8:11pm