

**Chairperson**  
Aaron Richman

**Vice chairperson**  
Cara Berg Powers

**Clerk**  
Lillie Williams



**City of Worcester**  
**Human Rights Commission**

**Members:**  
Shawna Curran  
Kathleen Gervais  
Izaida Gonzalez  
Robyn Kennedy  
Sean Lauziere  
Ike McBride

**Monthly Meeting – Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 6pm**  
YWCA, One Salem Square, Worcester, MA

**Members Present:** Cara Berg Powers, Izaida Gonzalez , Ike McBride , Sean Lauziere, Robyn Kennedy and Aaron Richman

**Members Absent:** Shawna Curran, Kathleen Gervais and Lillie Williams

**Staff:** Jayna Turcek and Eric D. Batista

**Guests:** Attorney General's Office, Attorney Andrea Park

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum was established and Human Rights Commission Chair, Aaron Richman, called the meeting to order at 7:28pm. The Chair welcomed the Commissioners. Everyone introduced himself or herself.
2. **Approval of March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.

3. **Old Business**

**A. Discussion of shelter survey**

Cara provided a summary report/fact sheet that highlights the findings and responses from the shelter surveys. The shelters/transitional housing facilities surveyed serve a variety of diverse populations.

The survey was targeted for providers to find out what are their practices, how prepared they feel and what supports the Human Rights Commission could provide to make them more comfortable supporting transgender population.

Key take-aways:

1. Adopt City's ordinance
2. Youth and teens are under served and represented for shelter opportunities
3. Non-Discrimination policies generally did not include transgender, only one agency has a written policy.

Next steps:

1. Connect with all shelters first with regards to the trainings through a written letter from the commission
2. Trainings (offered to each of the participating sites and also one larger training for management of shelters/transitional housing providers) and



OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITIES, CITY HALL  
455 MAIN ST., WORCESTER, MA 01608  
TELEPHONE (508) 799-1152 | FAX (508) 799-1208



2. Draft press release announcing the findings and trainings available through the Human Rights Commission.

Announcement:

Aaron took some time to thank and acknowledge Kathleen Gervais for her dedicated service to the Human Rights Commission for 10 years. He expressed the gratitude of the commission on how valuable her service was to the City of Worcester.

**4. Commissioners' reports-** none at this time

**5. Location of next meeting (May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016):** Worcester City Hall, 455 Main St., Esther Howland Chamber

**6. Public comment** (incorporated at time of discussion on item 3A)

**7. Adjournment** at 8:01pm