

Chairperson
Aaron Richman

Vice chairperson
Cara Berg Powers

Clerk
Lillie Williams



Members:
Lilian Chukwurah
Shawna Curran
Izaida Gonzalez
Robyn Kennedy
Sean Lauziere
Ike McBride

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Monthly Meeting – Monday August 15th, 2016, 6pm
City Hall, 455 Main St., Worcester, MA

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

Members Absent: Shawna Curran and Lillie Williams

Staff: Jayna Turchek

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum was established and Human Rights Commission Chair, Aaron Richman, called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. The Chair welcomed the Commissioners. Everyone introduced himself or herself.

2. **Approval of June 6th, 2016 minutes:** Tabled for revision and approval in September

3. **Old Business**

A. Shelter survey on serving transgender guests: Update on shelter training

Jayna Turchek shared that two trainings have been held for shelter staff at Veterans Inc. and SMOC. A larger training is being planned at City Hall and all shelters and housing providers will be invited to attend. Trainers are attorneys from Community Legal Aid, and the MA Attorney General's Office along with Laura Farnsworth of Safe Homes.

4. **New Business**

A. Office staffing and location updates from the Director

Jayna Turchek shared that the office moved to the first floor of city hall, room 101. The office has received a grant from the MA Attorney General's Office to operate a local consumer aid program. A staff person will be hired. Additionally, Anthony Ortiz who served as the Housing Discrimination Intake Worker for the office has been promoted to an inspector with the Housing Division of Inspectional Services. His replacement will be hired shortly.

B. Planning for FY'17

i. 2016 Eleanor Hawley Human Rights Award



OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITIES, CITY HALL
455 MAIN ST., WORCESTER, MA 01608
TELEPHONE (508) 799-8486 | FAX (508) 799-1208



The Commission discussed plans for the upcoming biennial Human Rights Award. The award ceremony will take place the morning of Saturday December 10th, 2016, International Human Rights Day. The event will be called Human Rights Day Breakfast and Award Ceremony. A location will be determined. Robyn will explore venue options and Cara will prepare a timeline with tasks and list of potential partners for the next Commission meeting. Jayna will update the nomination packet in time for distribution at PRIDE.

ii. Goals for FY'17

The Commission discussed goals for the coming year which included further discussion of the reports from the Worcester Police Department Bureau of Professional Standards, policy recommendations for the City's social media policy, update on race dialogues and the things that are happening that address police community relations.

C. Preparation of HRC FY'16 annual report

Aaron volunteered to compile the listing of activities of the Commission and work with Robyn to complete a draft for review in September.

D. Announcement for upcoming Election of Officers

Election of Officers will take place at the September meeting

E. Preparation for Worcester PRIDE (September 10th, 2016)

Members confirmed they will march in the parade and assist with tabling on the Common.

5. Location of next meeting (September 12th, 2016): Worcester City Hall, 455 Main St., Esther Howland Chamber

6. Public comment Edward Robinson made a request for brochures for the annual PRIDE Youth Dance. He was directed to pick them up at the office.

7. Adjournment at 7:58pm