

HUMAN RIGHTS IN WORCESTER

You Have Rights...We Can Help

Despite civil rights legislation at the federal & state levels, discrimination still exists. Fear, misinformation, & lack of understanding about differences often lead to prejudice & discrimination.

It is clear that behavior that denies equal treatment to any individual due to race, color, creed, disability, faith, gender, sexual orientation or source of income undermines civil order & deprives all of us of the benefit of a free & open society.

It is the goal of the Human Rights Commission to ensure that all city residents are treated fairly & equally by eliminating bigotry, discrimination, intolerance & prejudice.

Please join us in this journey.



ADMINISTRATION

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Aaron Richman, *Chairperson*
Cara Lisa Berg Powers, *Vice-chair*
Shawna Curran
Kathleen Gervais
Izaida Gonzalez
Robyn Kennedy
Sean Lauziere
James (Ike) McBride

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

Jayna Turcek
Human Rights & Disabilities Director

Ana Velazquez
Housing Discrimination Intake Worker

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City of Worcester



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The commission was established to promote the city's human rights policy. It is the policy of the city to assure that every individual shall have equal access to & benefit from all public services, to protect every individual in the enjoyment & exercise of civil rights & to encourage & bring about mutual understanding & respect among all individuals of the city.

The commission meets the first Monday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Please check meeting notices at City Hall or the city's website: www.worcesterma.gov

CHALLENGES

There are times when members of our community face needless challenges to their most basic human rights:

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The right to find a job & earn equal pay for equal work, regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation

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The right to buy a home or rent an apartment, regardless of their race, religion or the number of children in their family

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The right to enjoy full access to public services, regardless of their accent, address or ethnic background

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The right to move about freely regardless of disability, impairment or ethnic or racial identity

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Discrimination, hatred, intolerance & prejudice are obstacles to a free & humane society & we are committed to removing these obstacles from our community.

OPPORTUNITIES

We work to make Worcester a better place by:

...fostering a community of hope, where diversity, harmony & tolerance thrive.

...advocating for the civil & human rights of all city residents

...educating the public about their rights & responsibilities, enlisting the aid of community groups & other organizations in developing & delivering programs that raise local awareness & sensitivity of human rights issues.

...responding to complaints of human rights within city limits.

...mediating disputes alleging human rights abuses or violations.

...working with municipal departments, city agencies, local businesses & other organizations to increase compliance with local, state & federal laws.

Updated 11/2016

HOW WE CAN HELP

If you believe that you have been the subject of discrimination in Worcester, contact us.

We offer many forms of help:

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Intake & processing of human rights complaints

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Dispute resolution & mediation

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Referrals to appropriate agencies

We also work to build community by:

Developing educational programs & informational brochures about human rights issues

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Conducting outreach to varied ethnic communities & meetings with various community groups

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Encouraging the reporting of human rights violations within the city

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Improving community/police relations