

HUMAN RIGHTS IN WORCESTER

We strive to create a community where every individual...

...enjoys equal access to and full benefit of all public services

...enjoys and is free to exercise her or his civil rights

...enjoys the opportunity to appreciate, understand and respect every other member of our community

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 and deprives all of us of the benefit of a free and open society.

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

Please join us on this journey.

ADMINISTRATION

Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager
Abigail McCabe
Staff Liaison

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Eduardo Rivera, *Chairperson*
Cara Lisa Berg Powers, *Vice Chair*
Harry Danso
Edward Kwiyup
Kathleen Gervais
Mable L. Millner, *Clerk*
Edward G. Robinson
Jeffery Miller
Udeme Ukpog

STAFF

Ines Beron, Housing Discrimination
Worker (508/799-8486)

OFFICE

Room 101, City Hall, 455 Main
Street

The Human Rights 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.

City of Worcester



Executive Office of the
City Manager

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mission Statement

The Office of Human Rights Strives to ensure that all city residents are treated fairly and equally by reducing bias, bigotry and prejudices. Through outreach, educational programs, events and advocacy the office promotes ways to increase respect in our community and safeguards equal access and opportunity for all.

City Hall, Room 101
455 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm

Telephone: (508)799-1186
Fax: (508) 799-1018

Email: humanrights@worcesterma.gov
Web: 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 and 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

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

OPPORTUNITIES

We work to make Worcester a better place to live, work and visit by:

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

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

...educating the public about their rights and responsibilities, enlisting the aid of community groups and other organizations in developing and delivering programs that raise local awareness 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, boards and commissions, local businesses and other organizations to increase, compliance with local, state and federal laws and to raise awareness of and sensitivity to civil and human rights issues.

HOW WE CAN HELP

If you believe that you have been the subject of discrimination in Worcester, we encourage you to contact us. We offer many forms of help:

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intake and processing of human rights complaints

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dispute resolution and mediation

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referrals to appropriate agencies

We also work to build community by:

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developing educational programs and informational brochures about human rights issues

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conducting outreach to varied ethnic communities and 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