Human Rights Commission Meeting Summary  
February 7, 2011 6:00 p.m.  
Esther Howland Chamber

Present: Kathleen Gervais, Cheryl Pope, Edward Robinson, Cara Berg-Powers, Eduardo Rivera, Mable Millner

Guests: Herbert Cremer, Gordon Davis

Staff: James Estrella, Christina Andreoli, Ines Beron

I. Welcome and Call to Order  
a. Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. Approval of January Meetings – Not Able to Approve Minutes

III. Overview of Transition Plan

IV. Voting for a New Chair – Nominee Eduardo Rivera, Seconded by Edward Robinson. Vice Chair – Cara Berg Powers. Commission took on a vote to identify Chair. Kathy Jervais Made a Motion to Name Eduardo Chair. Unanimous Vote by Commission. Eduardo Rivera Made a Motion to Name Cara Berg Powers Vice Chair. Unanimous Vote by Commission.

V. What To Do When the Police Stop You Brochure. Final version of the card needs to be approved. Eduardo made a donation of $100.00 to print the brochures. Presentation and Distribution of Brochures to Centros Las Americas; Friendly House; Southeast Asian Coalition Center; Jewish Community Center; African Community Center; Worcester Youth Center, Worcester Senior Center; Great Brook Valley Health Center. Panels – representatives from WPD (possibly Sgt. Hazelhurst); CM Office; Human Rights Commission; Legal Assistance Corporation; Immigration Community; Friendly House. Time Frame: Spring. James will reach out to these partners and schedule a date for trainings.

VI. Cara Suggestion – HOPE Coalition; Civics Initiative. Cara will get contact information for Oak Hill CDC.

VII. YWCA – Stand Against Racism Meetings. Representatives Needed from Commission. Eduardo Rivera will be attending meetings. Christina Andreoli will reach out to Linda Cavioli. City of Worcester Co-Sponsors event. The event is the last Friday in April. Fran has helped organize event with speakers and a rally in the past.
VIII. Chief Gemme – Secure Cities and Restraints for the March meeting. Chief Gemme’s Informational Presentation on Secure Cities and the Use of Restraints. Town of Holden is doing this. Secure Cities – MOU (not law) with FBI and ICE in other communities. Providing Feds with Immigration Status. Stopped/Arrested and given to ICE database. Legal Understanding. Conversation on where this is. 45 Minutes. 6:20 PM


X. Workforce Central – CORI check. Steve Freeman. James Estrella to follow-up on employees.

XI. Cheryl’s last meeting is April. Timeline for the HRC Materials/Brochure/ Mission Statement.

XII. Outreach to Youth, Elementary, Middle, High and Colleges, in Preparing a Program to educate this group on specific issues – Bullying. What are Human Rights? How can you assist? Cheryl suggested that Eduardo contact Rachel Brown – Disabilities Commission will take the lead on Bullying Issue.

XIII. Attorney General to Hold Hearings on the Anti-Bullying Law in Springfield.

XIV. Thursday, February 10 at 4:30 PM – Cheryl Pope, Mable Millner, Rachel Brown to meet with City Manager re: Fran’s position. Will discuss a Part-Time Position Possibility. Suggestions: Legal Expertise, Bilingual or Trilingual. All three met with Mayor O’Brien. Cheryl will confirm with the Mayor’s Office of a date, time and place of Fran’s reception and notify the Human Rights Commission members.

XV. Commission – Cheryl’s term expires in April. Commission suggested a candidate with a legal background would be helpful. New Chair should attend the next Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to follow-up. Cheryl asked James about the term expiration date for Maria Florez – can be reappointed to the Commission for one more term.

XVI. Request to have microphone set-up for their meetings. Open Meeting Law – Posting Meetings. Request for a copy of the School Committee Submission to the State regarding Anti-Bullying – James Estrella to follow-up.

XVII. Next Meeting – Monday, March 7, 2011. Esther Howland Chamber, 3rd floor City Hall. 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.