

## **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**

Eric D. Batista  
*City Manager*

Kevin Lovaincy  
*Chief Equity Officer*

## **COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Ellen Shemitz, *Chair*  
Elizabeth O'Callahan, *Vice Chair*  
Robert Bilotta  
Guillermo Creamer Jr  
Randy Feldman  
Charles Hopkins  
Bernard Reese  
Jacqueline Yang

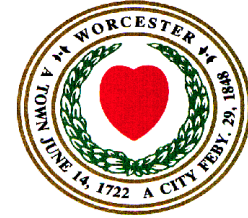
## **HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE**

Located at the  
Executive Office of  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
51 Sever Street  
Worcester MA 01609



Tel. (508) 799-1995  
Email: [EODEI@worcesterma.gov](mailto:EODEI@worcesterma.gov)

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 on the fourth 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](http://www.worcesterma.gov)

The City of Worcester is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

## **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.

## **HOW WE CAN HELP**

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

Report civil rights violations  
Submit human rights complaints  
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