

Chairperson
Aaron Richman

Vice-chairperson
Jacqueline Yang

Clerk
Elizabeth O'Callahan



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:
Lilian Chukwurah
Latoya Lewis
Lauren De Oliveira
Deidre Padgett
Edward G. Robinson

**Monthly Meeting Summary – Monday, November 4, 2019, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chambers**

Members present: Lilian Chukwurah, Latoya Lewis, Elizabeth O'Callahan, Lauren De Oliveira, Deidre Padgett, Aaron Richman, Edward G. Robinson, Jacqueline Yang

Staff: Jayna Turchek

1. Call to order and introductions

A quorum was established and Chairperson Richman officially called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm. Commissioners and members of the public introduced themselves. The Chairperson welcomed members of the commission, and those present, including Tiffany Williams of the Worcester Daily News, She/Her/Hers, and Brianna Brewer, Head Chair Shades, a subcommittee of Worcester Pride

2. Approval of October 7th, 2019 meeting minutes

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes written. Commissioner Chukwurah seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

3. New Business:

A. Discussion on Transgender Day of Remembrance- November 20th (Tiffany Williams)

Tiffany Williams with the Worcester Daily News and Brianna Brewer from Shades of Worcester Pride spoke to the Commission about current issues affecting the trans community and upcoming events. Co-organizers and supporters were also named in the audience.

Planning an entire week dedicated to raising awareness of trans issues

- Remember trans people who have been killed around the world
- Raise awareness of trans issues in community
- Highlight and address disparities between who is harmed when it comes to trans violence
 - Trans women of color are murdered at disproportionate rates
 - Rates difficult to track - when a trans person is murdered, coroners often misgender them;
 - Information only comes out when a friend/family member clarifies
- At least 13,000 LGBT individuals die by suicide every year, including trans people
- Law enforcement issues: many law enforcement departments lack training and policies/procedures protecting members of the trans community

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- Legal issues: Designations not inclusive of trans people on drivers licenses, other legal documents
 - City of Worcester implementing trans-inclusive policy, WPD has policy online
 - Legal forms may be required to list only two designations due to state/federal funding
 - Could a subcategory be added to forms where there is state or federal guidance?

Events:

- 11/18 Forum at YWCA to Raise awareness and make Worcester even more welcoming.
 - Speakers: Tif Williams, Hayden Lombardozzi, Maddie Ritter, Maureo F Fernande Y Mora
- 11/19 Flag raising in front of City Hall at 4pm
Reading of proclamation by Councilor Lukes during the City Council Meeting
- 11/21 Trans day of remembrance 6pm-8-pm to include speakers, reading of names, light refreshments

What strategies do trans people use to stay safe?

- Call Sharon McQueen for questions/concerns as a safe person to consult
- Use a buddy system
- Employ the same strategies often given to cis women

Connective trans services available:

Unitedcarema.org
Fenwayhealth.org

Follow up:

- Director Turchek encouraged commissioners to review city policies
- Commissioner Padgett will do digging into policy of trial courts
- Director Turchek will reach out to Sharon McQueen to extend an invitation to join the commission at an upcoming meeting to help clarify WPD’s policies on interacting with members of the trans community
- Additional inquiry needed about city forms and gender fields

B. Announcement: Municipal elections tomorrow- VOTE! (polls open 7am to 8pm)

<http://www.worcesterma.gov/elections/voter-assistance>

Chairperson Richman reminded commissioners and members of the public to vote

4. Old Business:

A. Neighborhood meeting support- facilitate convening of organizers

Clerk O’Callahan summarized the evolution of the convening of Neighborhood Meeting Organizers and outlined next steps

- Follow up meeting with organizers
- Continued collaboration with the Neighborhood Response Team within the WPD

5. Public Comment (See above)

6. Next meeting: Monday December 2nd, 2019

7. Adjournment at 8:00 pm