

**City of Worcester Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**

**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES– Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 5:45 pm**

Video available online: <https://play.champds.com/worcesterma/event/984>

**Members Present:** Martha Benitez, Violet Kabaso, Samantha Sendrowski, Tracey Whitney, and Rubby Wuabu

**Members Absent:** Heather Borelli, Kayanna James

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek

**Call to order and introduction to welcome a new intern**

A quorum was established, Samantha Sendrowski called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Introductions were made and a new intern was introduced and welcomed: Fatima Quintanilla

**Review of August 3, 2021 and September 14, 2021 meeting minutes**

Rubby Wuabu motioned to accept the minutes as written for the August 3, 2021 meeting. Tracey Whitney seconded. Minutes unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

Rubby Wuabu motioned to accept the minutes as written for the September 14, 2021 meeting. Violet Kabaso seconded. Minutes unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

**3. New Business**

**A. Planning for 2022 Women of Consequence Awards Ceremony**

Violet Kabaso is currently working on connecting with local universities for the Women of Consequence Awards Ceremony.

Potential Keynote Speakers/Panel:

- Carolyn Jackson- St. Vincent's Hospital CEO
- Connie Askin- Big Brother Big Sisters of Central Mass CEO
- Deborah Hall- YWCA Executive Director
- Ariel Lim- Housing Program Coordinator, City of Worcester and mother

Theme Ideas:

- Building resilience in the face of adversity- Healthcare Workers
- Metamorphosis/Evolution
- Reemergence/Future
- Creative new ways
- Pivotal Leadership

Potential panel concept:

- 10-15 minute panel conversation with women answering questions from the public
- Have award winners incorporate how they found unconventional ways to lead or adapt due to COVID-19

Application approval: Motion to approve addition of checkbox for winners if they would like to be a part of a mentorship program by Violet Kabaso. Seconded by Rubby Wuabu. Motion unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0. Vote on the theme for the 2022 Women of Consequence Awards Ceremony tabled for the January meeting.

## **B. Outreach and engagement plan for public meeting participation -focus on Spanish speaking residents**

Locations for outreach:

- Quinsigamond Community College
- Worcester State University
- Clark University
- College of Holy Cross
- Friendly House
- Abbey's House
- Elderly Housing
- Variety of Churches
- Spanish Restaurants- Sazon Latino, Hacienda de Don Juan
- Saver's
- Goodwill
- Salvation Army
- Gala Foods/Santiago's Market
- Worcester Vocero
- WCUW

Networks:

- Interpreters who work with the Latinx community
- Students at Holy Cross
- Get into contact with Ansaar to bring in the Arabic speaking community.

Interpretation will be provided for anyone who requests them.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP): <http://www.worcesterma.gov/human-rights/know-your-rights/limited-english-proficiency>

#### **4. Old Business -Update project proposals and timelines for FY22**

##### **Wonder Women of Worcester poster series and children's posters 10/07/2021:**

- Press Release by the Worcester Cultural Coalition for the event
- 100+ pieces of work from the children of Worcester
- Tracey referenced Jamal's Wonder Woman of Worcester who is his Dunkin Donuts Lady
- Event will be covered by the Telegram and Gazette
- Prints will be showcased all around Worcester
- JMAC guidelines must be followed to attend

##### **November and December meeting topics and guests:**

The November meeting will be an informational meeting focusing on presentations from the organizations we have invited as well as organic questions about gender based violence. Deborah Hall from YWCA will share a presentation on their listening session of how COVID-19 has impacted women and domestic violence.

The December meeting will focus on action steps and recommendations specific to public demands.

Jayna will make sure the meetings are promoted on the City of Worcester Health and Human Services Facebook page.

##### **Planning the virtual forum on "The Talk: preparing children for police encounters"**

Tabled as Kayanna James was not present to report.

##### **Additional Comments from the Public:**

Women's March in Shrewsbury, Ma, Deborah Ellstrom will keep the Committee updated and in the loop.

#### **5. Adjournment** (Next meeting is Tuesday November 9, 2021)

Motion to dismiss the meeting by Violet Kabaso. Seconded by Tracey Whitney. Motion unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 pm