

Human Rights Commission
October 5, 2009 Meeting Summary
Levi Lincoln, Jr. City Council Chamber

Present: Cheryl Pope, Chair; Maria Florez, Kathleen Gervais, Mable Millner, Edward G. Robinson - Commissioners; Fran Manocchio, staff
Unable to Attend: Eduardo Rivera, Edward Kwiyp

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM

1. September 14, 2009 meeting summary unanimously approved, as submitted.

2. Old Business:
 - a. FY2010 Goals and Objectives: Commissioners reviewed the draft FY2010 work plan submitted by Fran Manocchio, with input from Yung Phan and Ines Beron (staff members). See attached DRAFT #2.
 - b. “Know Your Rights: What To Do When Stopped By The Police”: Fran advertised an office support position (unpaid) in the Clark University Community Service Newsletter and received several responses. She already interviewed two individuals, and one is very interested in this project. He also offered to translate the card into Arabic and will have a friend translate into Albanian. We will complete the project this fiscal year.
 - c. Social Justice Round Table Update and Work Plan: Maria Florez stated that she has stepped down from the Civic Engagement Work Group due to her work schedule. Cheryl Pope and Kathy Gervais are attending the full Social Justice Round Table meetings, as is Fran Manocchio. We are able to share information about the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities and the respective Commissions at the meetings.
 - d. Taxi/Liveries – Customer Bill of Rights: Hold until November meeting when Eduardo Rivera can address this issue.
 - e. MCAD Office/City Hall: Cheryl Pope initiated discussion about safety concerns raised at the September meeting. Fran Manocchio instructed staff in Room 100, City Hall to keep the office door closed during regular office hours. Fran will communicate with both staff the importance of following protocols of physical space regarding privacy and confidentiality.
 - f. Letter to Editor: The letter to editor submitted in response to an article in In-City Times, was published in today’s Telegram and Gazette.

3. New Business:
 - a. Stand Against Racism: The YWCA of Central Massachusetts will host a Stand Against Racism on April 30, 2010. More details to follow.
 - b. Temple Emanuel: Fran Manocchio received a letter from a member of Temple Emanuel raising concerns regarding street paving that was done on the second night of Rosh Hashanah. The heavy equipment prevented people with disabilities from using the accessible entrance to the synagogue. Fran spoke with the individual who wrote the letter and will follow-up with the City Manager and Commissioner of Public Works. Commissioners would like Fran to draft letter to City Manager and Commissioner of Public Works and Parks requesting policy and procedure, effective immediately, to prevent this from occurring again. DPW&P should be aware of religious holy days and avoid any street work close to the respective houses of worship during those times. Fran can provide a list of religious holy days, for educational purposes. In the past, she has provided all Department and Division Heads with the NCCJ (National Conference for Community and Justice's Calendar of Religious Festivals and Holidays), but that resource is no longer available. Commissioners would like to use this unfortunate situation at Temple Emanuel as a learning opportunity.
4. Other Business: None
5. Director's First Quarter Report: Will be distributed prior to November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009
6:00 – 8:00 PM**