

Chairperson
Edward G. Robinson

Vice-Chair
Jeremy Fontain

Clerk
Julie Feeney



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:
Cara Berg Powers
Harry Danso
Kathleen Gervais
Edward Kwiyp
Eduardo Rivera
Barbara Zerillo

**Meeting Summary
Monday September 9th, 2013, 6pm
City Hall – Esther Howland Chamber, 3rd Floor**

Members Present: Julie Feeney, Jeremy Fontain, Kathleen Gervais, Carla Berg Powers, Edward G. Robinson and Barbara Zerillo

Members Absent: Harry Danso, Edward Kwiyp and Eduardo Rivera

Staff: Jayna Turчек, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

Guests: Joan Webster, Center for Nonviolent Solutions Community Mediations Services

1. Call to Order:

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

2. Introductions:

The Commission members and guest introduced themselves.

3. Approval of August 5, 2013 meeting minutes:

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

4. New Business:

a) Mediation video premier

It was reported that the Mediation Video editing is almost complete. The possibility of a Mediation Video premier was discussed with the first week of November (November 6) as a possible target date. The locations of Cinema 320 or the Traina Center for the Arts at Clark University were discussed. It was decided that the Traina Center may be a better fit due to accessibility. Joan from the Center for Nonviolent Solutions offered the Center's mailing list to help promote the event and also stated that trained Mediators from the Center would participate. Different event formats were discussed. Using a formal panel with a question and answer after the film was discussed as was the idea of having a question and answer with a format that allowed the audience to participate with



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presenting their own situations for exploration with the Center’s mediators. Commissioner Zerillo stated that a professor on campus could also provide situations for role playing if audience members did not have their own. The Commissioners discussed different groups to invite (including the Main South CDC, the Clark Southeast Asian Student Association and others) and also the possibility to have more neighborhood based showings and interactions after the premier in order to reach a wider audience. The idea of food was also discussed and Commissioner Zerillo offered to followup with Clark University about their food/drink restrictions as well inquire whether a Department would like to collaborate and contribute to providing food. Members were encouraged to send Director Turchek a list of names/organizations for outreach. Commissioner Berg Powers offered to design a flyer.

b. Discussion of future initiatives

The Commission discussed ideas for future initiatives. Suggested events included Human Rights Day (December 10th). A youth essay contest and a postcard or drawing display in conjunction with the day with winners and participants to be displayed in City Hall or other public venue. Chairperson Robinson stated that he was interested in addressing terminology so that Worcester citizens were not referred to as ‘minorities ‘but, instead, as ‘Persons of Color ‘because Worcester is now a City with a majority of Persons of Color.

5. Old Business

a. “I Have A Dream” Community Reading debriefing

Commissioners reported on the success of the “I Have a Dream” tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King. Commissioner Fontain was acknowledged for his role in the event organization. The event went well with many readers and media coverage.

b. PRIDE and Resource Pamphlet debriefing

The LGBTQ Resource Guide was discussed as a success and Commissioner Robinson was congratulated. The brochure was distributed at the Worcester PRIDE event on September 7th, 2013. It will be made available on-line. Commission members participated in the PRIDE parade and it was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Chairperson Robinson for providing t-shirts.

c. Mediation video editing

The City’s Cable Services is editing the film from the recording of the English and Vietnamese videos. The Twi and Spanish videos were not recorded as the actors were not available. The Commission discussed how to adapt the English version into Spanish subtitles. Director Turchek will follow up.

d. Quarterly planning

The 2nd quarter calendar was reviewed based on the discussion for future initiatives.

6. Commissioners’ Reports

Commissioner Gervais reported that she had attended the first meeting of the Worcester Sexual Exploitation Task Force which will meet again in November.

7. **Office of Human Rights Director's Report**
Director Turchek announced a new intern will be starting shortly with the Office.
8. **Location of next meeting:** October 7th, 2013: Worcester City Hall
9. **Public Comment:**
Joan Webster appreciated the opportunity to participate in the meeting and looks forward to the community screening.
10. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission
Planning Calendar**

2nd Quarter (October- December 2013)

1. Human Rights Day Celebration – Essay & Poster Contest
2. Mediation video community screening
3. Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20th)
4. Domestic Violence Awareness (October)

Monthly Meeting – Monday September 9th, 2013, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, Room 401 (4th floor)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of August 5th, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. New Business:
 - a) Mediation video premier
 - b) Discussion of future initiatives
5. Old Business:
 - a) “I Have A Dream” Community Reading debriefing
 - b) PRIDE and Resource Pamphlet debriefing
 - c) Mediation video editing
 - d) Quarterly planning
6. Commissioners’ Reports
7. Office of Human Rights Director’s Report
8. Location of Next Meeting (October 7th, 2013)
9. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
10. Adjournment

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Human Rights Commission will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact Jayna Turchek at 508-799-1152 or humanrights@worcesterma.go

The Human Rights Commission is dedicated to its service of safeguarding the civil liberties of all persons who live or work in Worcester. May the public kindly take notice to respect the order and decorum of the meeting. Please silence all cell phones and similar electronic devices. Refrain from speaking on cell phones or to others until recognized by the Chair that you have the floor.