

**Chairperson**  
Edward G. Robinson



**Members:**  
Cara Berg Powers  
Harry Danso  
Kathleen Gervais  
Aaron Richman  
Eduardo Rivera

**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Summary for September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

**Members Present:** Harry Danso, Kathleen Gervais, Aaron Richman Eduardo Rivera, and Edward G. Robinson  
**Members Absent:** Cara Berg Powers  
**Staff:** Jayna Turchek

1. **Call to order:** A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Introductions:** Introductions were skipped.
3. **Approval of August 4th, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.
4. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Planning for Eleanor Hawley Award and Human Rights Day Celebration (December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014)**

The event will be held on Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 5-7pm in the Levi Lincoln chamber of City Hall. The celebration will take place before the 7pm start of the weekly city council meeting with the hopes that the Mayor and Councilors will be able to join. 5-5:30pm will be socializing with nonalcoholic drinks and appetizers with the program taking place from 5:30-6:30pm.

There was a discussion about the program and Aaron asked whether Eleanor Hawley is still in Worcester and if she is available to participate. Jayna will follow up to find out. It was also suggested that last year's awardee could take part in presenting the award to this year's awardee. Another suggestion was whether we could incorporate recognition of the work of all nominees to show a mosaic of great work being done in the city. There was a discussion about local entertainment from musical groups from local schools.

The Commission agreed to wait to see who the nominees are before making any decision about the program.



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Jayna will update the nomination form and cover letter and send out mailing and emails. She will also place announcement on website with press release. All members will assist with distributing the nomination letter and form and encourage nominations to be completed by the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 deadline.

- b. **Amendments to Human Rights Ordinance and new ordinance Relative to Gender Identity and Expression:** Both were approved unanimously by City Council on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

- c. **Commissioners' update on Championing a Cause Efforts:**

Each member was given an assignment to map a plan of action for their cause which includes a general outline with mid and end goals stated. The Championing a Cause will be an ongoing project of the Commission.

Aaron spoke to Lutheran Social Services and feels strongly about working on ending demand to sexual exploitation in the city.

Kathy is continuing her work with education and awareness around human trafficking.

Eduardo and Harry will attend the upcoming Mayor's Immigrant and Refugee Roundtable.

- d. **Events calendar update:**

Cara volunteered to update the calendar for the coming year and was not present to provide update. Tabled for future meeting.

- e. **Review of PRIDE Parade and Tabling (September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014)**

Kathy, Aaron, Edward, Jayna and City Manager Edward Augustus marched in the parade. There was a great turn out and it was a fun day for all. Most people were more interested in socializing than taking information or completing the survey.

## 5. **Commissioners' Reports:**

Edward attended the Shrewsbury Neighborhood Meeting.

## 6. **Location of next monthly meeting (October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014):** City Hall

## 7. **Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)**

Reverend Martin is new to the city and is looking to purchase a building for a church. He came to the meeting today to find out what the Commission does and mentioned that he recently was called a house nigger by someone in the community and had contacted authorities to investigate. He was encouraged to follow up with Jayna.

## 8. **Adjournment at 7:52pm**