

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.  
City Manager



Heather Borelli  
Kayanna James  
Ariel Lim, Vice Chairperson  
Coretta McCarter, Chairperson  
Samantha Sendrowski  
Casey Thomas  
Tracey Whitney  
Rubby Wuabo

**CITY OF WORCESTER**  
**Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**

MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday November 10, 2020, 5:45 PM**

Virtual meeting on Cisco WebEx: [advisorycommitteeonthestatusofwomenwebex@cow.webex.com](mailto:advisorycommitteeonthestatusofwomenwebex@cow.webex.com)

Call in number: 415-655-0001; Access code: 160 850 2789

This meeting was not live streamed. A video recording is posted on the city website.

**Members Present:** Kayanna James, Coretta McCarter, Samantha Sendrowski, Casey Thomas, Rubby Wuabo

**Members Absent:** Heather Borelli, Ariel Lim, Tracey Whitney

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek

**Call to order, introductions and instructions for virtual participation**

The meeting was called to order at 6pm. The nation held election for our next president and vice-president last week and over the weekend President-elect Biden and Vice-Chairperson-elect Harris held an event to speak to the nation and world. Committee members congratulated Vice-chairperson-elect Kamala Harris and spoke on the historic occasion and what it meant to them.

**Review and approval of October 6, 2020 meeting minutes**

Commissioner Sendrowski made a motion to approve minutes as written and Commissioner James seconded to approve the October 6, 2020 meeting minutes. All approved.

**New Business:**

Election of officers- tabled to next month. Officer descriptions will be shared in advanced. Ariel Lim sent her regrets for not being able to attend tonight and wanted to share she was not seeking the Vice-chairperson position. Casey Thomas and Kayanna James both expressed interest in vice-chairperson position.

**Old Business:**

**Planning for 2021 Women of Consequence Awards-**

Committee reviewed the google form applications and spent time reviewing the criteria for the young women of consequence application. Due to Covid the Committee agreed to take out the nominator so that it becomes a self-nomination application process. It should be noted in the application that Committee applicants are encouraged to seek assistance and review of their application by an adult and/or peer advisors/mentor etc.

We will request that teachers and counselors to reach out to encourage students to apply.

Add line about how did you hear about this award on application.

Committee will review the forms and finalize at December 1 meeting.

Suggestion to recognize all young women who apply with certificate and/or digital flowers.

c/o Jayna Turchek, Director of Human Rights & Accessibility  
TELEPHONE (508) 799-8486 | FAX (508) 799-1218  
EMAIL: [humanrights@worcesterma.gov](mailto:humanrights@worcesterma.gov)

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### We Are the Women of Worcester campaign and poster series-

Chairperson McCarter referenced the “I Am Worcester” photo shoot and campaign and realized that our project is similar. How is this the same or different from what we are proposing? Can our project work in conjunction? Can we partner with “I Am Worcester” for a subgroup? Can we do a special series for women in non-traditional roles? Would this be something we plan to roll out in March? Please check this out:

[www.worcesterma.gov/cultural-development/cultural-projects/i-am-worcester](http://www.worcesterma.gov/cultural-development/cultural-projects/i-am-worcester)

Kayanna James suggested we think about doing a We Are Women of Worcester calendar instead of the poster campaign? Committee discussed options for visibility on city website and Facebook.

Chairperson McCarter requested Committee women to go to the draft google doc to add ideas. Committee will request a staff person from the Cultural Office to join us for this conversation.

### Committee’s Commitment for Change Statement-

Committee all asked to edit and review. Commitment for Change statement will be connected to the Mentor Program and Day. All members will review the draft program developed by Rubby Wuabo and discuss next month. She will also develop a list of potential partners.

### Update on COVID and its impact on Worcester families-

Samantha Sendrowski shared the Massachusetts Committee on the Status of Women's October report on Child Care and Education during COVID-19: <https://www.mass.gov/news/mcsw-child-care-and-education-during-covid-19-report-october-2020>. They provided recommended actions beginning on page 24. They surveyed over 4,000 women. Another open hearing will take place in two weeks. Covid is disproportionately affecting women (employment, childcare, career and economic impact).

Samantha Sendrowski noticed the lack of resources and information on childcare on the City’s Covid page. She would like to see the Committee make recommendations for information and resources be added.

The Committee would like to receive the biweekly Covid statistics report from the Health Equities Taskforce.

### Review planning document for virtual forum on “The Talk”-

Kayanna James will submit a proposal for the Committee to review. She envisions a panel consisting of young, middle age, and older parents. She suggested partnership with Black Families Together and MAWOCC (MA Women of Color Coalition) on this project. The Committee would take the lead and ask for partnership for collaboration.

The Committee has partnered with MAWOCC in past most recently last year’s Know the School Committee Candidates Forum. Chairperson McCarter will connect with MAWOCC. Kayanna James will continue to reach out to the Black Families Together. All agreed partnership would be welcome. It is important to have the community involved.

### Suggestions for future agenda items

- Rubby Wuabo will present on mentor program proposal
- Samantha Sendrowski wants to provide final recommendation to City on childcare and economic impact.

**Next Meeting:** December 1, 2020 at 5:45pm

**Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm**

*“But while I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last. Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities and to the children of our country regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not simply because they've never seen it before.”* Kamala Harris, Vice-President-Elect of the United States