

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

### **VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES– Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 5:45 pm**

Video available online: <https://play.champds.com/worcesterma/event/1146>

**Members Present:** Kayanna James, Samantha Sendrowski, Martha Benitez, Tracey Whitney, and Rubby Wuabu

**Members Absent:** Heather Borelli, Márcia Marci

**Staff:** Jayna Turcek

#### **1. Call to order and Introductions**

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 5:51 pm. The Chairperson welcomed members of the commission and those present, and a roll call was taken, 5-0-0, that established a quorum.

Chairperson James announced that the new agenda has been distributed and asked if anything needs to be revised. The agenda was accepted as distributed.

#### **2. Review and approval of January 25, 2022 meeting minutes**

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to accept the minutes as written for the January 25, 2022 meeting. Tracey Whitney seconded. Minutes unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

#### **3. New Business**

##### **A. Vote on 2022 Women of Consequence Awardees**

Confirmation of Young Women of Consequence (YWOC) and Women of Consequence winners and runner-ups. Tie between three Young Women of Consequence runner-ups so committee women had to select one of the three and conducted roll call vote. Candidate 3 was decided as the runner-up for YWOC. Runner-up for WOC based on scoring was candidate 24. Winner for YWOC based on scoring is candidate 4. Winner for WOC based on scoring is candidate 11.

Rubby Wuabu motioned to approve results for Young Women of Consequence and Women of consequence. Samantha Sendrowski seconded. Results unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

##### **B. Finalize award ceremony run of show**

Martha Benitez will present keynote speakers, Samantha Sendrowski will close out the event. In lieu of Mayor Joseph Petty, City Councilor, Committee requested Councilor Etel Haxhijaj.

Keynote speakers:

- CIO of WPI, Patty Patria
- Director at First Friends, Kim Sullivan
- Housing Program Coordinator/Working Mom, Ariel Lim
- Worcester Community Fridges Organizer, Echo Louissaint
- UMass Memorial, Monica Escobar Lowell

Artistic Performance will be sought out by Kayanna James

Questions for Panelists:

1. What is the most essential part of being a leader?
2. As a Woman, what obstacles have you overcome?
3. What piece of advice would you give to an up-and-coming woman in navigating leadership?

### **C. Updates from MA Commission on Status of Women**

Kayanna James will be meeting with one of the committee members the week of February 6th to discuss a partnership.

Kayanna James brings attention to new Executive Director and changes to Advocacy Day, now May 2023. As well as the new legislation to help survivors of prostitution and the Equality Model in MA (EMMA) Coalition.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **A. Vote on Committee recommendations from gender-based violence discussions**

Chairperson asked to table discussion of Committee name change.

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to approve and publish the report from the gender-based violence meeting. Kayanna James seconded. Approval unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

Samantha Sendrowski will be reaching out to the original reporter of the gender-based discussion to report on the finalized recommendations. Also recommended having a dedicated staff member for Gender Equity work. Due to the addition of the recommendation of a dedicated staff member, the committee passed a new approval of the report.

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to approve the amended report. Rubby Wuabu seconded. Approval unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

**B. Planning for spring investigations on economic status of women (April/May)**

A dress rehearsal will be planned to better prepare for the April and May meetings.

**5. Adjournment (Next meeting is Tuesday, March 1, 2022)**

Motion to dismiss the meeting by Kayanna James. Seconded by Rubby Wuabu. Motion unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm