

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of June 14, 2023

Commissioners Present – Rabbi Keith Stern, Cindy Greene, Jane Brown, Tamika Olszewski, William Dain

Commissioners Absent – Eli Ingraham, Rakashi Chand, Maureen Sullivan

Advisory Council Present – Lt Amanda Henrickson

Student Representatives Present – None

Guests – Katani Sumner, Hattie Kerwin-Derrick, Officer Eric Rosenbaum, Superintendent George McMains

Staff to the Commission – Shemeka Hill

The special meeting was called to order by Rabbi Keith Stern at 6:00 pm

1. Introductions
2. Newton Police Superintendent George McMains Boston Marathon Report Presentation
 - Explained command structure for Newton Police Department on Marathon Day
 - Presented reports received and actions taken by Newton Police on April 17, 2023
3. Public Comment
 - Members of the public allowed 3 minutes to share comments about Boston Marathon incident on April 17, 2023
 - Discussion amongst commissioners about Boston Marathon incident on April 17, 2023
 - Discussion about recommendations on actions that HRC should take a position on in response to Boston Marathon incident on April 17, 2023. Recommendations include: HRC brokering a restorative conversation between the Mayor, Newton Police, and marathon spectators involved. Sponsor a running/walking event to include the Mayor, Newton Police, other community organizations, and marathon running groups (Trailblazers, Pioneer). HRC commissioners should get copies of complaints filed with the HRC.
 - Vote on motions to implement recommendations from HRC commissioners
4. Minutes from April 04, 2023, meeting approved with amendment
5. Newton police report – Lt Henrickson & Officer Rosenbaum
 - Two incidents at Newton South High School. One incident involving graffiti with the “N word” on a container in the softball field club house. One incident involving graffiti with anti-Asian slur on a desk. There are no functional cameras in the back of the school where the club house is located. School working with school resource officer on both incidents.
 - One incident at Cabot Woods involving graffiti with a homophobic slur “Fag” and “666”, written on an old chimneys located on the walking path. Paths are secluded and have no cameras in the area.
6. Complaints received – Shemeka Hill
 - None received this month
7. Student reports –
 - None Received this month

8. Updates from the Mayor's Office – Hattie Kerwin-Derrick

- Looking at options to meeting with various running groups about marathon incident
- Discussion about suggestions of questions for the community survey being done in the city of Newton

9. Updates from Commissioners

- Meeting dates for July and August 2023 have been cancelled
- Meetings will resume in September 2023. Meetings will remain on the first Tuesday of the month.

10. Upcoming Events Announcements

- Juneteenth Celebration at Hyde Park Playground on 6/19 between 2-4 pm
- Motion to authorize HRC to be an official partner of the Juneteenth Celebration event on 6/19. Motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Next meeting will be September 05, 2023, on Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Newton Health and Human Services Department