

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of January 09, 2024

Commissioners Present – Rabbi Keith Stern, Jane Brown, Cindy Greene, Willaim Dain, Rakashi Chand, Tamika Olszewski

Commissioners Absent – None

Advisory Council Present – None

Student Representatives Present – None

Guests – Clio McAneny & Kate Zella

Staff to the Commission – Shemeka Hill, Linda Walsh

The meeting was called to order by Rabbi Keith Stern at 7:03 pm

1. Introductions
2. Minutes from September 05, 2023, meeting approved. Minutes from October 03, 2023, meeting approval deferred until next meeting.
3. Newton police report – Linda Walsh read reports for November & December 2023 (**See attached report**)
 - In the month of November 2023 there were 10 incidents (6 incidents in the schools and 4 incidents in the community).
 - In the month of December 2023 there were 6 incidents (3 incidents in the schools and 3 incidents in the community).
4. Complaints received – Shemeka Hill
 - **None received this month**
5. Student reports –
 - **None Received this month**
6. Updates from the Mayor’s Office –
 - **None received this month**
7. Updates from Commissioners
 - Discussion about location possibilities for the Days of Remembrance Honoring Victims of Genocide- City Hall 1st Floor, Local High & Middle Schools, Local Colleges, Faith Communities.
 - Discussion about Pride Celebration Event date and possible honoree- Shemeka will post nomination form on website.
 - Discussion about upcoming meeting with Superintendent Ana Nolin on February 6th- Commissioners please write down questions or email them to Shemeka.
 - Discussion about holding a Mid-Month Commissioners’ Meeting- Possible locations for in-person meeting Temple, Library, City Hall. Shemeka sends out prior program suggestions from previous meeting minutes.
8. Discussion with Newton South students Clio & Kate about school-based incidents
9. Upcoming Events Announcements
 - MLK Day Celebration- Monday, January 15th

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Next meeting will be February 06, 2024, on Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Newton Health and Human Services Department

City of Newton Police Department

Community Services Bureau

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Hate / Bias Reports

- 11/1/2023 – Holman Rd – Kidnapped flyers taken down
- 11/3/2023 - Walnut Street – Swastika was found on door
- 11/6/2023 – Stoney Brae Rd – “J-had” written on trash barrel
- 11/7/2023 – Newton South High School – graffiti bathroom – “Palestine lives matter, fuck israel”
- 11/13/2023 – Newton North High School – graffiti – 2 swastikas found
- 11/13/2023 – Newton North High School – student was overheard in class saying “heil Hitler” and motioning the nazi salute – student was pulled out of class
- 11/15/2023 – Cabot Elementary School – graffiti – anti-black comments written in 3rd floor girls bathroom
- 11/15/2023 – Newton South High School – social media pic of student at a pro Palestine demonstration in boston holding sign with swastika and Israeli flag shaking hands saying Hitler would be proud of you. Picture was brought to school admin attention as other students saw the post.
- 11/15/2023 – Centre St – harassing phone calls – anti-semitic
- 11/16/2023 – Day Middle School – n word written with name
- 12/1/2023 – Day Middle School – n word written
- 12/3/2023 – Cedar St – anti-semitic letters send to residence
- 12/13/2023 – old England rd – road rage incident anti-semitic comments yelled
- 12/17/2023 – cotton st – kidnapped flyers taken down
- 12/19/2023 – Newton South High School – swastika discovered on cafeteria wall
- 12/20/2023 – MBTA BUS Stop Newton Centre – posters – stop the genocide

50 incidents 2023
60 incidents 2022
58 incidents 2021