

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of February 06, 2024**

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

**Commissioners Absent** – Eliza Spaulding

**Advisory Council Present** – Lt Amanada Henrickson & Officer Eric Rosenbaum

**Student Representatives Present** – Clio McAneny & Sarina Chand

**Guests** – None

**Staff to the Commission** – Shemeka Hill, Shin-Yi Lao

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

1. Introductions
2. Minutes from January 09, 2024, meeting approved. Minutes from October 03, 2023, meeting approved.
3. Discussion with Newton South Students Clio & Sarina about returning to school after the strike.
4. Newton police report – Lt Amanada Henrickson & Officer Eric Rosenbaum
  - One incident involving “zoom bombing” of a city council meeting. Anti-Black and Anti-Semitic comments made targeting two council members present. NPD working to identify individuals involved.
  - One incident involving a “Black Lives Matter” sign being stolen from a resident’s property on Auburndale Avenue.
  - One incident at Day Middle School involving a swastika. One incident involving words written in the bathroom. No further information was available at this time.
  - Discussion about reporting process for hate/bias reports received by NPD.
5. Complaints received – Shemeka Hill
  - One housing related complaint received in January 2024. Referred to MCAD.
6. Student reports –
  - **None Received this month**
7. Updates from the Mayor’s Office –
  - **None received this month**
8. Updates from Commissioners
  - Discussion about the roles and responsibilities of the HRC commission. Suggestions included using public comment as a tool to hear the public’s concerns and conducting a survey about experience with living in Newton in the 13 villages to gather data.
  - Discussion about possible involvement in a program with the Newton Inter-Faith Organization.
  - Discussion about relaunching Newton Together.
  - Discussion about Pride Celebration Event possible honoree- Shemeka & Katie posted nomination form on website.
9. Upcoming Events Announcements
  - Dedication 2 Community Event (Various dates in March 2024)
  - Book Banning Program at Druker Auditorium April 29, 2024
  - Days of Remembrance Exhibition
  - Mid-Month Commissioners meeting for February date will be sent out by Shemeka

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Next meeting will be March 05, 2024, on Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Newton Health and Human Services Department