

MINUTES OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

November 9, 2016

Health and Human Services Offices

Newton City Hall

7:00 PM

Commissioners Present— Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Sheila Mondschein , Bryan Barash and Dianne Chilingierian

Commissioners Not Present – Jane Brown

Advisory Council Present—Lt Bruce Apotheker

Advisory Council Not Present - Viviana Planine and Frank Wolpe

Student Representatives Present — Michael Ryter (NSHS)

Guests – Steve Hassan, Shira Diner, Kyra Norsigian and Judy Norsigian

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh

1. Introductions
2. Hate Crimes Report
 - Chestnut Hill Mall incident – “N” word and Swastika; discussion of what a hate crime was for new meeting attendees present
 - Going through accreditation – process discussed
 - Cops & Shops – L’Aroma
 - Open House at the Police Station with the Crime Commission – November 16th at 7 p.m.
3. Student Report
 - Hate Speech Lessons
 - Part of AP History class
 - occurred over the past few weeks
 - M. Ryter’s belief that it could have and should have been longer than it was
 - Discussion regarding Hate Speech
 - Are students afraid of retaliation if they speak up?
 - Do students know who to turn to when they want someone to talk to?
 - Are students aware of resources available to them?
 - Each school is supposed to have someone they can speak to.
 - Is Facing Our History still apart of the High Schools?
 - Students are “stressed”
 - Student Government
 - Mental Health Wellness in 9th Grade
 - Depression Education
 - After Mental Health split to more wellness
 - Working with AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience) for Youth and Young Adults
 - 3-4 class days dedicated to Mental Health
 - 11th grade – centered self
 - Youth Officers have been part of the process and have taught some of the classes
4. HRC Award Ceremony
 - December 6, 2016; 6 p.m. at the Druker Auditorium
 - Need names for invitations
 - Light appetizers and desserts
 - Assist in getting the word out
 - Waiting to hear about books for past members
5. BLM follow-up
 - City to be a model for inclusivity
 - Follow-up meeting with writers of letter to occur with the Mayor
6. Programming:
 - Inclusivity Lecture – moderator Helms; perhaps in May; additional discussion in January
 - December 17th Senior Center at 7 p.m. – Newton Fair Housing speaker

Next meeting, **HRC Award Ceremony – Druker Auditorium at 6p.m.**