

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of October 6, 2020

Commissioners Present – Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Bryan Barash, Jane Brown, Eli Ingraham, Tamika Olszewski, Brooke Foucault Welles

Commissioners Absent – David Kuppenheimer

Advisory Council Present - none

Student Representatives Present – none

Guests – Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, Betty C, Cindy Greene, Dana Hanson, Anne Josephson, Sue Lowcock, Nora Lester Murad, Maura O’Keefe, Eric Rosenbaum, Rabbi Keith Stern, Katani Sumner

Staff to the Commission – Linda Walsh, Shin-Yi Lao

1. Introductions
2. Minutes of September 1, 2020 approved
3. Bias-related incidents and complaints
 - Officer Eric Rosenbaum – no new incidents to report
 - Linda Walsh – complaint about a gym in Newton
4. Updates from the Mayor’s Office
 - Newton did not receive the REMAP grant. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council will make other resources available for those who did not get the grant.
 - The City Seal visioning process has started.
 - There will be a hearing on Thursday with time for public comment on Indigenous People’s Day.
 - The Police Reform Task Force is continuing their work.
 - Upcoming Overdue Series event on Oct. 20 from 5-7pm: Author talk and discussion by Dr. Mahzarin R. Banaji, the author of *The Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*. This training on implicit bias will be advertised to City departments, boards and commissions.
 - Mayor Fuller responded to the HRC resolution declaring racism a public health crisis that was passed at the September meeting. She shared her written statement and answered questions from commissioners.
5. Student Reports
 - Imani Fonfield, one of the student representatives, emailed Hattie Kerwin Derrick an update stating that the NSHS HRC is in full swing. They are working on recruiting members and doing community building.
6. Protocol on Hate – Tamika Olszewski
 - Anne Josephson presented her protocol for community response to hate speech or bias incidents.
 - Tamika Olszewski moved that the Newton HRC make a formal recommendation to Mayor Fuller and the Newton City Council adapt the Community Response to Hate Speech or Bias Incidents. Motion passed.

7. Human Rights Award/Human Rights Day

- 2019 award event was canceled due to weather. Susan Church will be honored this year.
- Need to identify student awardees – application will be sent to schools and is available online.
- Details TBD (i.e., in person vs. online) – will depend on current COVID-19 guidance.
- Eli will reach out to the library about a human rights related display. Will reach out to students working on the Overdue project to see if they would like to partner on a digital display.

8. MLK Day – 1/18/21

- Looking at doing an online event
- Send ideas to Hattie/Tamika/Dana or join the planning committee

9. Overdue Events

- Lots of events coming up, please try to attend
- <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/mayor/initiatives/overdue.asp>

Next meeting November 3, 2020 at 7:00pm on Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Hattie N. Kerwin Derrick