

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of July 13, 2021**

**Commissioners Present** – Brooke Foucault Welles, Jane Brown, Eli Ingraham, Sue Lowcock, Tamika Olszewski

**Commissioners Absent** – Bryan Barash, Rabbi Keith Stern

**Advisory Council Present** – Bruce Apotheker

**Student Representatives Present** – Imani Fonfield

**Guests** – Ryan Chitty, Chali’Naru Dones, Chief Sachem Fisher, Dr. Darlene Flores, Carol Fulton, Rena Getz, Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Andre Luke, Emily McMains, Kerry Prasad, Amy Sangiolo, Katani Sumner, Jacklyn

**Staff to the Commission** – Shin-Yi Lao

The meeting was called to order by Brooke Foucault Welles Chair at 7:04pm

1. Minutes from May 4 meeting approved
2. Newton police report – Lt. Apotheker
  - 5/7: A sticker with the N word was found at Day Middle School
  - 5/18: A young Jewish person reported a driver yelling “F\*\*\* the Jews” at him
  - 5/19: Graffiti, including obscenities and the N word, was found at Day Middle School
  - 6/4: Swastikas drawn in feces found at NSHS
  - 6/14: Road rage incident where two Asian women reported another driver yelling “F\*\*\* you Chinese” and “F\*\*\* you Asians.”
  - 6/15: Jewish resident reported that a group of teenage boys yelled “Hey Jew” and threw a rock at her child. The rock did not hit the child.
  - 6/15: Swastika found at NNHS
  - 6/16: Report of student at Burr Elementary saying the N word to several classmates
  - 6/16: Report of student at Burr Elementary saying “Black lives don’t matter”
  - 6/22: Report of student at Countryside Elementary saying the N word to a classmate
  - 7/2: Dispute between solicitor and Newton resident. The solicitor stated that the resident called her racial slurs and the resident states the solicitor said “go back to your country.”
3. Complaints received – Shin-Yi Lao
  - No complaints received
4. Student reports – Imani Fonfield
  - Introduced Ryan Chitty as the new NSHS student representative
5. Updates from the Mayor’s Office – Hattie Kerwin Derrick
  - Planning for MLK Day 2022 has started – contact Hattie if you are interested in being part of the planning committee
  - The events for the first Juneteenth celebration in Newton went well, and expanded versions will happen next year

- Community Advisory being released tonight about five recent housebreaks where all victims were Asian (unclear at this point whether the incidents were bias related). There will be a community meeting Thursday.
6. Indigenous Peoples Day Newton Committee Presentation
    - Shared personal experiences of discrimination and concern about lack of support in community for Indigenous People's Day
    - Expressed interest in collaborating on future events supporting the BIPOC community
    - Requests:
      - i. Present to the HRC twice a year
      - ii. Improve communication
  7. Updates from Commissioners
    - 2021-2022 Meeting Schedule – contact Brooke if you have any concerns about the dates
  8. Pride and Juneteenth Flag Purchases
    - Will purchase an updated Pride flag and a Juneteenth flag which will fly together in June

#### **Reminders and Upcoming Events**

- July 12, 6pm: Zoning Redesign Focus Group for BIPOC residents (virtual) contact Nevena, [npilipovicwengler@newtonma.gov](mailto:npilipovicwengler@newtonma.gov)
- Aug 2, 5:30pm Zoning Redesign Focus Group for LGBTQ+ residents (virtual), contact Nevena, [npilipovicwengler@newtonma.gov](mailto:npilipovicwengler@newtonma.gov)
- October 12, 7pm: 13 Moons and 12,000 Years: Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day, Newton Free Library (virtual) <https://newtonfreelibrary.libcal.com/event/7779160>

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm

Next meeting September 14 at 7:00

Respectfully submitted by Brooke Foucault Welles