

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of February 01, 2022

Commissioners Present – Rakashi Chand, Cindy Greene, Tamika Olszewski, Rabbi Keith Stern, Susan Lowcock

Commissioners Absent – Jane Brown, Eli Ingraham, Brooke Foucault Welles,

Advisory Council Present – Bruce Apotheker, Viviana Planine

Student Representatives Present – Ryan Chitty (NSHS)

Guests – Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Carol Fulton, Eric Rosenbaum, Katani Sumner

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

The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office at 7:03pm

1. Minutes from January 11, 2022, meeting approval deferred until March 01, 2022, meeting.
2. Newton police report – Officer Rosenbaum and Lt Apotheker
 - Two incidents that were flyer based occurred on the north side of Newton. Flyers were related to the Boston vaccine mandate. Flyers were left on two Hispanic residents' cars.
 - At Day Middle School the F-word and N-word were found on a wall. Cameras were present in the area and footage is being reviewed.
 - At Newton South High School there was a verbal altercation between a student and a staff member. The student used words toward the staff member in a confrontational way. The N-word was used by the student towards the teacher. The student has been suspended and the school along with the youth officer is working on this incident.
 - Two incidents that involved swastikas. One incident occurred at Brown Middle School and one incident occurred at Newton South High School. Newton South incident had a large swastika carved on the inside of a wrestling mat. Mat is in the gym and no cameras are present. It is being investigated by school.
 - At Newton North High School anti-LGBTQ graffiti was found on a stairwell wall. Cameras are located on both ends of stairwell and is being investigated.
 - Discussion of school-based incidents trends and data.
 - Discussion about having a meeting to make a statement in response to anti-Semitic related incident.
3. Complaints received – Shin-Yi Lao
 - None received this month
4. Student reports – Ryan Chitty
 - Ryan - NSHS
 - i. Discussion time set up for students to share their thoughts and feelings related to recent swastika incident on February 3rd.
 - ii. Upcoming cultural celebrations: Black Cultural Day on March 9th. Middle East North African and Southwest Asian North African Cultural Festival.
5. Updates from the Mayor's Office – Hattie Kerwin Derrick
 - None received this month
6. Updates from Commissioners
 - None received this month

7. Upcoming Events Announcements
 - Joanne Bland Panel with event on February 10th.
 - Pride Honoree selection.

8. Chair Election
 - Deferred until next meeting

9. Public Comment
 - None received this month

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm
Next meeting will be March 1, 2022, on Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Newton Health and Human Services Department