

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of April 05, 2022**

**Commissioners Present** – Cindy Greene, Susan Lowcock, Jane Brown, Eli Ingraham, Tamika Olszewski, Rabbi Keith Stern, Rakashi Chand

**Commissioners Absent** –

**Advisory Council Present** – Bruce Apotheker

**Student Representatives Present** –

**Guests** – Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Eric Rosenbaum, Katani Sumner

**Staff to the Commission** – Shemeka Hill

The meeting was called to order by Hattie Kerwin Derrick at 7:06pm

1. Minutes from March 08, 2022, meeting approved.
2. Newton police report – Officer Rosenbaum and Lt Apotheker
  - At Brown Middle School there was a large swastika in permeant marker on the stall of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boy's bathroom. A small swastika was found on a white board in another classroom. The Youth officer took the report, and it is being investigated by the school.
  - At Day Middle School there were anti-Black writings in the bathroom. Writings referenced sex and the N-word.
  - At Day Middle School a swastika was drawn on a student's notebook. The teacher spoke with the student and reported the incident. Note of restorative work and educational conversations to the seriousness of the incident will be worked on with the student.
  - At Day Middle School the principal reported hearing homophobic slurs being shouted during a walk out protest. School was not able to identify students involved.
  - At Ward Elementary School the word "Hitler" was carved in a railing. There are no cameras so the responsible party couldn't be identified.
  - At Newton South High School there was anti-semitic writings in highlighter. There are no cameras in the area where writings were found.
  - At Oak Hill Middle School there was an anti-gay voicemail left by 3 three students on another student's cell phone. Students were tracked down and the Youth officer spoke with the students and their parents. All three students received school consequences and educational and restorative work.
  - At Newton South High School, a swastika was found.
  - At Brown Middle School a swastika was found.
  - Discussion about incident data.
3. Complaints received – Shemeka Hill
  - None received this month
4. Student reports –
  - None received this month
5. Updates from the Mayor's Office – Hattie Kerwin Derrick
  - None received this month

6. Updates from Commissioners

- Discussion about creating an Incident Response Team (IRT) to respond to incidents that occur.
- Discussion about having a panel discussion about anti-Semitism.

7. Upcoming Events Announcements

- Pride Honoree selection. Discussed Bob Parlin or Newton South High School GSA as possible honorees.
- Community Breakfast on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

8. Chair Election

- Election of new chair:
  - i. Cindy Greene nominated Rabbi Keith Stern
  - ii. No additional nominations
  - iii. Rabbi Keith Stern elected as new chair

9. Public Comment

- None received this month

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm

Next meeting will be May 3, 2022, on Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Newton Health and Human Services Department