

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Minutes of July 05, 2022

Commissioners Present – Rabbi Keith Stern, Cindy Greene, Jane Brown,

Commissioners Absent – Eli Ingraham, Tamika Olszewski, Rakashi Chand

Advisory Council Present – Lt Bruce Apotheker

Student Representatives Present – Ryan Chitty,

Guests – Hattie Kerwin Derrick, William Dain, Jennifer Tomaneng, Lonnie Powers, Melissa Waltuck, Kim Gilbert, Terry Sauro

Staff to the Commission – Shemeka Hill

The meeting was called to order by Rabbi Keith Stern at 7:05 pm

1. Introductions
2. Minutes from May 03, 2022, meeting approved.
3. Newton police report – Lt Bruce Apotheker
 - In Newton there was an anti-semitic incident involving patrons of Star Market on Boylston Street. One patron made anti-semitic statements to 2 other patrons and assaulted one of them. Newton PD responded to the incident and was able to place the patron under arrest for the assault and battery, a civil rights violation and disturbing the peace.
 - In Newton there was an anti-semitic incident involving a patron and shopkeeper at Garden City Vape. The patron made an anti-semitic statement to the shopkeeper over a dispute about a price of an item in the store. Newton PD responded to the incident and advised shopkeeper that he can take out a letter of trespassing.
 - In Newton there was a vandalism incident to someone's private property. A religious fixture was damaged on a Newton residence. Incident was reported to Newton PD.
4. Complaints received – Shemeka Hill
 - One complaint about employment discrimination was received. Referred to Mass Commission Against Discrimination.
5. Student reports – Ryan Chitty
 - Ryan - NSHS
 - i. At the end of May there were two days of informational panels. Mental Health Awareness Day was on May 26th. The program included panels where student gave their own experiences on mental health issues. On May 27th there was a student-run podcast, and the Domestic Violence Awareness Club held a joint panel. The panel was on the process of investigating sexual harassment at the school.
 - ii. No Place for Hate rally was held on June 16th at the school.
6. Updates from the Mayor's Office – Hattie Kerwin Derrick
 - None received this month

7. Updates from Commissioners

- Discussion about RSVP advisory board.
- Discussion about recent anti-semitic incidents and meeting held at the Mayor's Office.

8. Upcoming Events Announcements

- Looking ahead for programs for Pride Month/Honoree in 2023.
- Discussion of upcoming Human Rights Award honoree.

9. Public Comment

- None received this month

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Next meeting will be September 13, 2022, on Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Newton Health and Human Services Department