



CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

5:00 pm Eastern Time

Location: City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom

Monthly Meeting on April 7, 2022

Minutes

1) Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra calls meeting to order

She then shares her screen to read two important sections of HRC meeting guidelines for all in attendance to note taken directly from the Open Meeting Law statute, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 20:

(f) After notifying the chair of the public body, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall inform other attendees of any recordings.

(g) No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body. If, after clear warning from the chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove the person from the meeting.

2) Roll Call of Commissioners

- Rachid Moukhabir present remotely on Zoom.
- Lynn Alexis, Rev Tim Bogertman, Chief Chris Bright, Chief Dave Callahan, Dr Lourenco Garcia, Vice Chair Chaimaa Hossaini, Kourou Pich, Kathi Reinstein, and Chair Janine Grillo Marra are present in person.
- Quorum in attendance.

3) Land Acknowledgment

Includes moment of silence to acknowledge that Revere is the land of the Pawtucket tribe.

4) Arrive & Settle - Brief Silence

5) Approval of Minutes from the March 10th monthly Meeting

Kathi Reinstein MOTIONS to **approve the minutes** and Lynn Alexis seconds; All are in favor.

6) Unfinished Business

Chairperson Grillo Marra states that at the March 10, 2022, meeting there was a technical oversight during the meeting suspension which inadvertently ended the meeting so there was no official adjournment. She requests motion to adjourn March 10, 2022, meeting.

Chief Bright MOTIONS to **adjourn March 10, 2022, meeting**. Chief Callahan seconds; All in favor.



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7) Director's Report and Updates - Dr. Maritsa Barros, EdD, Chief Officer of Talent and Culture (Director of HRC) – present remotely

Dr Barros thanks RevereTV and welcomes voices from the City to find commonality among difference, right in this room. It is possible to benefit all while uplifting the marginalized. Dr Barros states she is new to this City government and empathizes with those who don't feel connected or know how to be heard.

a. 21-day Racial Equity Challenge

- The Challenge officially launched on April 4!
- There are 45 registered from the municipality and 55 from the schools
- Look forward to growing and expanding in future

b. REMAP (Racial Equity Municipal Action Plan)

- The REMAP team will offer a presentation to the HRC at the June monthly meeting
- Details to follow

c. Ramadan – Guest speaker, Asmaa Abou-fouda

- April 2 was the start of the Holy Month and fasting for 30 days (unless elderly or ill)
- Asmaa described the process of a person and family's activities around fasting and how it helps to understand and experience as those who suffer from hunger
- All are invited to a **Ramadan Iftar Dinner** on April 29 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Revere Senior Center, 25 Winthrop Ave
- Commissioners thank her for coming and educating about Ramadan
- ACTION: Vice Chair Hossaini offers to create a flier for the April 29 event

d. Easter

- Dr Barros wishes everyone an upcoming Happy Easter!
- Rev Bogertman shares comments about Holy Week, its meaning, and activities where Catholics and Protestants can come together in Christ's work

Commissioner Questions and Input:

- HRC members express appreciation for the updates, the information provided within the Racial Equity Challenge, and the education about Ramadan.
- Vice Chair Hossaini thanks COVID Ambassadors for mentioning the 21-day Racial Equity Challenge and reminds every one of the upcoming Passover holiday to include with other April holiday acknowledgments.



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8) Topics for Discussion

a. Solidarity with Cambodian Community

- Chairperson Grillo Marra states that there is still harm in the American Asian Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and need for further healing which has been sparked by the upcoming Cambodian New Year this month. She opens the discussion for how we might support this community.
- Kourou Pich states that Cambodian New Year is April 14-16. People can bring food and offerings to the Wat Ratanarangsey Temple at 75 Thornton St on April 14-16. There won't be any activity at the temple as in the past due to COVID.
- Chief Callahan emphasizes the celebration at Thornton St is wonderful
- Vice Chair Hossaini echoes this and encourages the Cambodian community to speak and share resources with us for greater understanding and offer support
- Rachid Moukhabir mentions that he invited the Cambodian community to participate in the multi-cultural exhibit at the History Museum for which Rachid acquired a grant
- Rev Bogertman states that the Cambodian Evangelical Church meets in their building (First Congregational Church) every week on Sundays at 2:00pm.
- Kourou Pich states that as part of the Cambodian community she has suffered discrimination and harassment. She appreciates uplifting the Cambodian community.

b. Pride month

- Chairperson Grillo Marra states that Councilor Steve Morabito has worked closely with Mayor Arrigo in past years on the Pride Month and the Flag Raising ceremony. Councilor Morabito and Dr Barros plan to meet in upcoming days and weeks regarding this year's activities. HRC members are invited to offer some ideas at this time.
- All HRC members are happy the City celebrates Pride month and thank Councilor Morabito for his involvement
- Kourou Pich invites the Youth to get involved
- Dr Garcia states he will bring this topic to the School District Racial and Equity Board
- Dr Barros inquires which Pride flag was raised in the past and recommends the 'Progress' Pride flag be used. She also asks, "How do we progress to feeling 'pride' about various Identities? Pride year round? What can we do beyond the Flag raising for education surrounding the LGBTQ+ community?"
- Vice Chair Hossaini and Lynn Alexis would like to see and hear more from this community
- Chairperson Grillo Marra mentions that if this community is not feeling safe or supported, then maybe affinity groups would be helpful
- Vice Chair Hossaini agrees and emphasizes affinity groups can be created for *any* group



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c. Juneteenth

- Chairperson Grillo Marra states that the City will celebrate the Juneteenth as an employee holiday for the first time this year. This meeting is an opportunity to begin discussing Juneteenth holiday ideas.
- Dr Garcia expresses he is glad that the bill has passed, and that Juneteenth (end of slavery) is now a Federal holiday. He shares that this is one of oldest and important events along with the Declaration of Independence and the end of the Civil War.
- HRC members thank Dr Garcia for education on the topic and agree that the holiday is long overdue, yet unfortunately structural racist issues persist. We need guest speakers and education.
- Dr Barros states that being born in a free country it is hard to fathom not being free. It is an opportunity to learn about unknown history.

d. HRC structure and ongoing work

Seeing that it is almost 6:30 and time to end the meeting, Chairperson Grillo Marra requests we table this agenda item.

Lynn Alexis MOTIONS to **table the topic of HRC structure and ongoing work** until our next monthly meeting in May. Kourou Pich seconds; All in favor.

9) **Other Business** - NO TIME

10) **Open Forum** (opportunity for the public to address HRC) - NO TIME

11) Adjournment

Chief Chris Bright MOTIONS to **adjourn**. Kathi Reinstein seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

MEETING NOTE: Throughout the meeting some guests in the audience behaved in ways that prompted the Chair to issue several warnings to maintain meeting order. At times, the Chair requested Police assistance to either escort guests from the Chambers or enforce order.