



CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

5:00 pm Eastern Time

Location: City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom

Monthly Meeting on May 5, 2022

Minutes

1) Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra calls meeting to order.

- She then states that it is not the intention of the HRC for guests to be asked to leave however she referred to Open Meeting Law statute, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 20 (f) and (g) posted in the Chambers regarding conduct of guests must not interfere with the conduct of the meeting or disrupt the proceedings.

2) Roll Call of Commissioners

- Lynn Alexis, Rev Tim Bogertman, Chief Chris Bright, Chief Dave Callahan, Dr Lourenco Garcia, Vice Chair Chaimaa Hossaini, Molly McGee, Rachid Moukhabir, Kourou Pich, Kathi Reinstein, and Chair Janine Grillo Marra are present in person.
- Introduction and welcome to new HRC member, Molly McGee, Attorney in Revere, Immigration and Criminal Law.
- Quorum in attendance.

3) Land Acknowledgment

Recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land. Includes moment of silence to acknowledge that Revere is the land of the Pawtucket tribe.

- a. Announcement from Commissioner Pich that President Biden declared May 5 as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

4) Arrive & Settle – Reading of quote followed by brief silence

"I am convinced that men [people] hate each other because they fear each other. They fear each other because they don't know each other, and they don't know each other because they don't communicate with each other, and they don't communicate with each other because they are separated from each other." - Martin Luther King, Jr., From his 1962 address at Cornell College.

5) Approval of Minutes from the April 7th monthly Meeting

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

6) Unfinished Business

Chair Grillo Marra requests we go out of agenda order since the unfinished business is the primary topic of discussion under item #8. No opposition from HRC members.

- a. HRC structure and ongoing work



CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

5:00 pm Eastern Time

Location: City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom

7) HRC Director's Message and Updates - Dr. Maritsa Barros, EdD, Chief Officer of Talent & Culture

Message:

- Dr Barros reiterated Chair Grillo Marra's opening message and then read an excerpt from Mayor Arrigo's recent [Op-Ed in the Revere Journal](#) on May 4th.
- She continued to emphasize that the Public Forum at the monthly meetings is intended to hear input about items on the meeting agenda.
- Dr Barros also stated that the HRC has heard the request for a public meditation venue, and we will work toward this so that larger philosophical and ideological issues regarding the HRC existence among other topics can be discussed.
- The monthly HRC meetings are not that platform since the monthly meetings are for conducting and receiving input on business.

Updates and Discussion:

a. 21-day Racial Equity Challenge

- Dr Barros shared that the Challenge is over and was successful.
- 46 from Municipality and 66 from District participated.
- 60 comments were shared on the discussion board, and some attended weekly Zoom conversations.
- Look forward to extending the Challenge to the rest of the city in the future.
- No comments or questions from HRC members.

b. Pride Month (June)

- Dr Barros shares that the Pride Flag Raising event is scheduled for June 1st
- Watch for another Pride event later in June.
- Commissioner Pich asks about a RHS LGBTQ+ club for collaboration to engage youth.

c. Juneteenth (June 19)

- Dr Barros states that there have been preliminary meetings to work on activities to celebrate Juneteenth and that the HRC and students will be involved once basic logistics are determined.
- Vice Chair Hossaini suggests we invite young Black artists to display their work for Juneteenth.

Pride Month and Juneteenth

Dr Barros expresses encouraging people of color and youth to participate in spreading awareness and acceptance of those involved in the LGBTQ+, Black and/or African American communities.

Commissioner Pich suggests we have a guest speaker at our June meeting to speak about Pride month and Juneteenth.

Commissioner McGee suggests we spotlight LGBTQ+ and Black owned businesses during June.



CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

5:00 pm Eastern Time

Location: City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom

d. REMAP (Racial Equity Municipal Action Plan)

- Dr Barros shared that the REMAP team will soon present their findings and recommendations to the HRC on working toward racial equity in the city and state.
- No comments or questions from HRC members.

MEETING NOTE: Chief Bright complains that he is being harassed and distracted by a guest in the front row. Chair Grillo Marra issues a warning to the audience and states that for any next disruption, the person will be asked to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the Chair may authorize the Police officer to remove the person from the meeting.

8) Topics for Discussion

a. HRC structure and ongoing work

- Chair Grillo Marra states that the HRC leadership (Director, Chair, and Vice Chair) recommends we create small working groups to be more productive.
- These small groups would brainstorm, do research, and make recommendations to present to the full HRC for further discussion and decisions.
- Dr Barros invites the community to collaborate with these working groups.
- Chair Grillo Marra also mentions there is a recently formed City wide event planning committee created by Dr Barros to improve event coordination and communication.
- Suggested HRC working groups:
 - Cultural Events and Celebrations
 - Education and Outreach
 - Special Group to create venue for Public Mediations
- Commissioner Reinstein asks how the third special group is different from Education and Outreach.
 - Dr Barros responds that one is more educational while the special group is more responsive and restorative arising from specific circumstances.
- Dr Garcia suggests we add an Evaluation group to see what works, what doesn't work and report that to the public.
- Much discussion about whether there should be an additional Evaluation working group or if this is inherently incorporated in each group as well as the question of how this overlaps with REMAP's work of data collection.
- Dr Barros felt that a separate Evaluation group makes sense. She agrees to be a resource for this group since she also oversees efforts from the REMAP team.
- The group discussed the title and permanency of the special group for Public Meditation.
 - All agreed it makes sense for it to be a special task force since it will likely be a temporary group to get the Public Meditation format established.
 - Title: Special Task Force for Public Meditations



CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

5:00 pm Eastern Time

Location: City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom

- Dr. Barros mentions the need to consider a Bias Education Response group in the future (not tonight).
 - A system to report and inform experiences that are of a bias educational basis.
 - Restorative Justice rather than Conflict Management.

Rev Bogertman MOTIONS to **create three working groups** (1. Cultural Events and Celebrations, 2. Education and Outreach, and 3. Evaluation) and one Special Task Force for Public Meditations. Commissioner Alexis seconds. All in favor.

Groups formed:

Cultural Events and Celebrations

- Vice Chair Hossaini, Chief Bright, Commissioner Moukhabir

Education and Outreach

- Commissioners Alexis, Pich, and Reinstein

Evaluation

- Vice Chair Hossaini, Dr Garcia, Commissioners McGee and Pich

Special Task Force for Public Mediations

- Commissioners Alexis and McGee, Chair Grillo Marra

9) Other Business

Dr Garcia reminds everyone that May is National Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month.

10) Open Forum (opportunity for the public to address HRC)

- Several guests addressed the HRC through the Chair to express their support, suggestions, or concerns.
- All taken under advisement.
- Chair Grillo Marra reminded guests that the monthly meeting is intended for comments about the meeting agenda and that venues will be established for other discussions or public meditations.

11) Adjournment

Commissioner Reinstein MOTIONS to adjourn. Vice Chair Hossaini seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.