



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, March 2, 2017**

Present Commissioners: Vice-Chair Nadia Davila, Nicholas Leydon, Bonita Cox, Cynthia Orellana, Sabrina Selk, Chara Itoka, and Mercedes Evans, CHRC Staff Nancy Schlacter, Crystal Rosa, Attorney/Investigator Acloque, and CPD Dept. Supt. Steve DeMarco.

Absent Commissioners: Chanta Bhan and Olinda Marshall.

Documents Used:

- January Minutes
- February Minutes
- March Agenda
- Copy of letter to Chair Bhan from Senator Montigny regarding the anti-human trafficking legislation and enclosure of Senate Bill 872

1. Call to order

Vice-Chair Davila called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Harvard Professor Virginie Greene was present during the meeting but did not comment.

3. Review and approval of January and February Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the January meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Commissioner Cox, seconded by Commissioner Selk. The Commission reviewed the minutes from the February meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Commissioner Leydon, seconded by Commissioner Cox.

4. Executive Director's Report

ED Schlacter updated the Commission on cases, staff activities and outreach. Since the January meeting, 5 new cases opened, 6 cases are pending, and 0 cases closed. The pending cases involve 3 housing complaints alleging: discrimination against a person with a disability; discrimination and retaliation against a person with a disability; and discrimination and retaliation based on race, color, and national origin. There is 1 pending case alleging employment discrimination based on race, color, national origin, and disability. ED Schlacter and Attorney Investigator Acloque attended CET's Network Event Planning Team (NEPT) event focused on how to outreach effectively to Spanish-speaking communities. There was a presentation by Cliff Cooke, City Demographer; Former Vice-Mayor Dennis Benzen; and El Mundo Publisher Alberto Vassallo to 80 attendees, including city staff and local nonprofits. ED Schlacter and Attorney Investigator Acloque completed HUD's Performance Assessment interviews and CHRC received a positive Performance Assessment. CHRC staff has continued their efforts coordinating the Fair and Affordable Housing Open House scheduled for Saturday, April 29. CHRC staff have developed a housing resource brochure, social media strategy, event map, and other marketing materials for the event.

5. February Meeting Follow Up

- **Speakers on Gentrification**

Commissioners expressed interest regarding a speaker on gentrification, specifically about housing and the small business community in Cambridge. Chris Cotter, Director of Housing, is tentatively scheduled for May or June. This topic will not be covered during the April Fair Housing event.

- **Fair Housing Ordinance**

FHO under review by the City Law Dept. to prepare for Home Rule petition to Legislature.

- **Debt-bondage in Cambridge immigrant community**

Chair Bhan received correspondence from the office of Senator Montigny to invite her to meet him and discuss would be helpful to support House Bill No 4595 Anti-human Trafficking Law (Senate, No. 2461). The bill is being resubmitted with slight updates. Chair Bhan provided a copy of the new bill with a copy of her correspondence from Senator Montigny. ED Schlacter learned that any letters in support of MA legislation need to be approved first by the City Manager to keep him abreast of issues being considered by the Commission. Commissioner Cox expressed concern upon hearing the new procedure. Commissioner Leydon stated that any member of the Commission could write a letter to the MA legislature without it being on City letterhead or associated with the Commission. Chair Bhan was invited to meeting with Senator Montigny and Commissioners Itoka, Cox and Leydon expressed interest in participating in the conversation. The Commission was reminded that up to 4 commissioners could meet without violating Open Meeting Law.

- **Trainer for Businesses re: Transgender Rights in Public Accommodations**

ED Schlacter has discussed this idea with Elysia Chandler, the LGBTQ+ Research Associate, who referred her to Kimm Topping, an LGBTQ+ Cmsn member who is a trainer on transgender issues. Cambridge Local First (CLF) has not been contacted yet. Commissioner Itoka volunteered to contact CLF to start discussion after ED Schlacter connects with Kimm Topping from the LGBTQ+ Commission.

- **Sanctuary City letter in support**

Commissioner Leydon asked the Commission to support a letter to Cambridge legislators to uphold Cambridge values as a Sanctuary City. Commissioner Leydon drafted the letter and the Commission discussed edits to the letter. CHRC staff will send the letter after edits are made.

New Business

- **Human Rights Vacancies**

The Commission has filled the two vacancies with new Commissioners Amanda Mangaser Savage and Joshua Stadlan. They may participate at the April event and will attend the May CHRC mtg.

- **Spring CLC presentations**

The Human Rights Commission is prepared to provide training to English language learners (ELLs) at the Community Learning Center (CLC) in May. ED Schlacter is in contact with Nicole Ivins from CLC, and will organize trainings based on interested teachers who sign up for a CHRC presentation for their classes. The dates for May are not yet scheduled.

- **CHRC presentations at CDD/Housing Division Inclusionary Units Meetings**

Dates are being scheduled, nothing is confirmed yet.

- **Fair Housing Event**

Scheduled Saturday, April 29, 2017, from 10 am - 2 pm, to be located in the CRLS main cafeteria. The Commission reviewed the marketing material for edits and provided feedback. Members of the Commission signed up for their preferred time slot to volunteer at the event.

Commissioner Orellana moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Leydon.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Rm on the 2nd Flr.