



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission  
Thursday, June 4, 2017**

Present: Commissioners Chair Chanta Bhan, Vice-Chair Nadia Davila, Olinda Marshall, Nicholas Leydon, Cynthia Orellana, Chara Itoka, Sabrina Selk, Amanda Savage, Joshua Stadlan, Mercedes Evans and CHRC Staff Nancy Schlacter, Crystal Rosa, and Attorney/Investigator Acloque.

Absent: Commissioners Bonita Cox

Documents Used:

- May Minutes
- June Agenda
- Handout: Envision Cambridge Housing Working Group, Session 1 Report

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Public Comment**

No comment

**3. Review and approval of May Minutes**

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

**4. Executive Director's Report**

ED Schlacter updated the Commission on cases, staff activities and outreach. Since the May meeting, no new cases have opened, 6 cases are pending, 1 case is closed. Two of the six pending will be reviewed tonight after the meeting.

**5. Presentation on Gentrification by Chris Cotter, Community Development Department Housing Director**

Housing Director (HD) Cotter explained the process that [Envision Cambridge](#) endeavors to accomplish with Cambridge's urban planning. Envision Cambridge completed its first year of a 3-year process, focused on transportation, design, mobility, and economic development. Throughout its first year, Envision Cambridge held workshops with residents and round table discussions with City Council. HD Cotter described gentrification as a housing response to changes in the types of work available, level of income, and the economy. HD Cotter stated there is a vast need for housing because of the drivers in the market. HD Cotter shared a slide that demonstrated historical patterns of segregation within Cambridge residential neighborhood. HD Cotter also explained the City's history with intervening when there are Expiring Use properties. Through the Inclusionary program, the City is also attempting to address the problem with residents unable to access a unit from a property owner that accepts Section 8 or other vouchers.

**6. June Meeting Follow Up**

- **Fair Housing Ordinance**

FHO is still under review by the City Law Dept. to prepare for Home Rule petition to Legislature. ED Schlacter will be meeting with City Manager, who wants to prepare this for the City Council July meeting.

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

ED Schlacter met with ISD, LGBTQ+ Cmsn, License Cmsn, and the City Manager pertaining to gender-inclusive bathroom best practices and how to make businesses complete a required training. All departments are on board with the idea. The training would occur in September or February.

- **HUD funded outreach**

Story Journal is a work in progress. The Fair Housing and Lead Paint brochures are designed, the brochures have been translated languages. The character language brochures (Arabic, Simplified Chinese, and Bengali), which still need to be printed.

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

Chair Bhan stated she is still working on scheduling a meeting with Senator Montigny and other interested members of the Commission regarding the support for House Bill No 4595 Anti-human Trafficking Law (Senate, No. 2461). At the March meeting, Commissioners Itoka, Cox and Leydon expressed interest in participating in the conversation.

## **New Business**

- **Outreach Opportunities**

- RiverFest – All those participating have contacted Project Coordinator Rosa regarding the details of the event on Saturday, June 3, 2017.
- Danehy Park Day is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16. Volunteers are needed to staff the outreach table for the entire event time. CHRC staff will email the Commissioners more information regarding logistics and shifts for each event.
- The Commission will follow up with the list of potential outreach partners at the September meeting.
  - Baby U.
  - Cambridge Hospital (Chanta will reach out)
  - Cambridge Public Health Department
  - Cambridge Libraries
  - Schools
  - Department of Veterans' Services

Commissioner Selk moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Leydon.

**Next Commission meeting will be determined at a later date.**