



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2015**

Present: Commissioners Mercedes Evans, Chanta Bhan, Kim Nghiem, Kerry Gough, Harry Reyes, Bonita Cox, Sabrina Selk, Nadia Davila, Police Superintendent Christopher Burke, and CHRC staff Nancy Schlacter and Sabrina Acloque

Absent: Commissioners, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Nicholas Leydon and Zainab Lakhani

Guests: Stephanie Guirand, Asst. Director/West African Research Assn.; Bayard Love, West African Research Assn.

Documents Used:

- February Minutes

**1. Call to order**

Vice-Chair Bhan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**3. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Schlacter updated the Commission on cases and staff activities. Noted that a six-month HUD Performance review occurred on February 18, 2015.

**4. February meeting follow-up:**

- Election of Commissioner Chair/Vice-Chair postponed until more Commissioners are present to vote.
- E.D. Schlacter stated that the Fair Housing Poster & Essay Contest event for April is going forward, despite limited response from teachers with submissions from their students, in comparison to prior years. The speaker for the Poster/Essay Contest will be MCAD Commissioner Charlotte Golar Richie. Date and time of event confirmed for Tuesday, April 14, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. E.D. Schlacter noted that the CHRC has not received any essays this year. Motion to add planning for the contest and brainstorming additional outreach efforts to the May agenda approved.
- E.D. Schlacter noted that in early March, she and Attorney Investigator Acloque gave a CHRC presentation for an ESOL Level 2 Class at the CLC, which went well. E.D. Schlacter noted that she gave another presentation for a Bridge to College class, where the students expressed concern that individuals with criminal records are not considered a protected class under our ordinance. Commissioner Reyes stated that he plans to expand his upcoming presentation to make it more interactive. He noted that his presentation may be lengthened to approximately 45 minutes to an hour in order to incorporate a listening exercise for the students, a role play, and time for questions and answers regarding the CHRC process.

**5. Review and approval of February Minutes**

Discussion about amending February minutes. The decision to approve the minutes was set aside until a quorum is reached/more members are present. Although a quorum was eventually reached, this was not addressed later in the meeting.

## **6. New Business**

- Commissioner Nghiem raised the possibility at the February meeting of the Commission sponsoring an event to commemorate the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Marathon bombings. E.D. Schlacter noted that she had received feedback regarding a strong sentiment against holding such an event while the Tzarnaev trial is underway. Commissioner Nghiem suggested this event be re-considered by the Commission in the future.
- Stephanie Guirand and Bayard Love of the West African Research Association discussed their work with the Black Lives Matter project. They relayed insightful information about the issues facing Black men in the Cambridge community. They noted that they are planning an Undoing Racism workshop. Ms. Guirand indicated that she would inform the Commission if there are ways to collaborate with her organization in the future. A motion to invite Ms. Guirand and Mr. Love to the May Commission meeting was approved.
- Commissioner Reyes reported on his effort to reach out to the GLBT Commission regarding the GLBT health data gathering initiative at his employer, Partners. Partners is still discussing how to best use the results of the data gathering. Motion to move discussion of a CHRC collaboration with the GLBT Commission to next month's agenda by Commissioner Reyes, seconded by Commissioner Gough and unanimously approved.
- Cambridge Police Superintendent Christopher Burke sought help from Commissioners in identifying a speaker/training resources for cultural competency training for the police force and City staff regarding LGBT issues.
- Commissioner Bhan motioned to have the April meeting moved to April 9, 2015, from its scheduled April 2, 2015 date. E.D. Schlacter stated that she would take a poll of Commissioners' availability via email to determine whether rescheduling the meeting would be possible. Absent conflicts, E.D. Schlacter indicated that rescheduling the meeting would be acceptable.

## **7. Agenda for April**

- Election of Commissioner Chair/Vice-Chair
- Further discussion of a possible collaboration between CHRC and the GLBT Commission regarding health data gathering
- Outreach Subcommittee – Commissioner support for upcoming outreach efforts

## **8. Agenda for May**

- Brainstorming to improve future outreach efforts for the April Fair Housing Contest
- Ms. Guirand and Mr. Love were invited to attend the May meeting to update the Commission on their projects/goals re: Black Lives Matter

Commissioner Bhan motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.**