



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, January 6, 2022
Zoom Virtual Public Meeting**

Present: Chair Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Stephen Curran, Mercedes Evans, Judith Laguerre, Sabrina Selk, Katie Stack, and Joshua Stadlan

City Staff: Executive Director Jennifer Mathews, Attorney Investigator Carolina Almonte, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Deputy Superintendent Fredrick Cabral

Absent: Commissioner Bonita Cox, Stefanie Haug, and Olinda Marshall

Documents Used:

- December 2, 2021, Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Padamsee Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No one was recording the meeting and no public was present to comment.

3. Review and approval of December 2021 Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the meeting on December 2, 2021. Commissioner Haug moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Marshall. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Introductions

The newest members of the Commission, Judith Laguerre and Stephen Curran, introduced themselves. Staff and other Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed the new Commissioners.

5. Staff Reports

Executive Director Updates

- Community Dispute Settlement Center conciliation training update – ED Mathews sent the Commission a calendar invitation for the training. The email to the virtual training can be resent if it was not received.
- Community Learning Center outreach partnership update – On January 27, ED Mathews will attend a Professional Development meeting on information sharing to support their new

immigrant students. ED Mathews will update the Commission with any ideas of outreach opportunities.

- ED Mathews explained that the City was going back to hybrid remote operations because of the current COVID surge.
- ED Mathews announced that CHRC was partnering with the AG's office to present a Know Your Rights training on Fair Housing. IA Almonte has been coordinating the presentation.
- ED Mathews followed up with the Community Development Department about the questions from the previous meeting about climate change and environmental justice. ED Mathews has a meeting tomorrow and will update the Commission at the next meeting.
 - Commissioners asked additional questions for consideration: Are there brownfields in Cambridge, and if so - where? Are there regulations for school busses idling near school buildings?
 - Deputy Superintendent Fredrick Cabral informed the Commission of brownfields, or former brownfields, locations that he was aware of regarding in Cambridge. Commissioner Selk sent a [link](#) where brownfields in Massachusetts are listed.
- ED Mathews provided a brief update about the walkout that happened in December at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. Community meetings have been held with the principal and assistant principal where they presented ways CRLS will be addressing how sexual assault.

Attorney Investigator Case Report

AI Almonte updated the members of the Commission on the latest cases. One case opened since the December meeting. The case is a housing discrimination complaint based on disability, race, national origin, and source of income. The case is dual filed with HUD. Currently, seven cases remain pending. In-depth descriptions of each case were given at the last meeting. AI Almonte stated that one case will close, and another two cases will be filed soon.

Project Coordinator Updates

PC Rosa reminded the Commission of the upcoming Housed In Cambridge webinar *Mastering your Credit Score* that is scheduled for January 18th. A second webinar in January is scheduled in collaboration with the Cambridge Police Department. CPD police officers will present methods to avoid becoming a victim to the latest scams. This webinar is scheduled for January 25th at 3 pm.

6. New Business

Election of 2022 Chairs

Commissioner Stadlan suggested a job description for anyone interested to be Chair to review. The co-Chair model is helpful for availability for signing off on determinations and facilitating the monthly meetings.

Priorities Brainstorm

ED Mathews encouraged the Commissioners to email if additional suggestions come to mind. The idea is to have an informational presentation every other month.

The following ideas were shared during the discussion:

- Cliff Cook presentation on the city's demographics
- DV and housing discrimination

- Difficulties with shelters
- Bill of Rights for the Unhoused
- An update on racial justice efforts happening in the city (e.g., staff training, equity, and inclusion, BIPOC business, Heart proposal)

Commissioner Selk moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Evans.

The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, February 3, 2022, virtually on Zoom.