



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission  
Thursday, September 6, 2012**

Present: Commissioners Elaine Angelone, Matthew Barrett, Bonita Cox, Mercedes Evans, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Randa Shedid, Caitlin Steirman, and Adrian Velazquez; staff members Mariah Freark and Colleen Johnston

Guests: Superintendent Chris Burke, Cambridge Police Department.

Documents Used: June 2012 minutes.

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**1. Recording of meeting**

No one was recording the meeting.

**2. Public comment**

No members of the public were present for public comment.

**3. Review and Approval of June Minutes**

The June minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved by all Commissioners present.

**4. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Johnston updated Commissioners about cases. She informed Commissioners that there was a hearing in July about a housing case, and that September 24, 2012 is the appeal deadline for the parties in that case. She informed Commissioners that if the parties do not request review by the full commission, Commissioners can come in to review the decision between September 25, 2012 and October 4, 2012, and request a review of the hearing decision by the full Commission if they believe it is necessary.

Executive Director Johnston reported on staff activities, and informed Commissioners about the upcoming agenda-setting meeting at MAHRC. She also informed the Commission that Commissioner Barr-Stearns resigned, and that she, Executive Director Johnston, would also be leaving next month upon moving out of state. She thanked the Commissioners for their service.

**5. Planning and Goal Setting for 2012-2013**

Chair Gonzalez-Brenes explained that she hoped to have a work-planning/brainstorming session to help the Commission move toward realistic, action-oriented goals. Executive Director Johnston discussed the nature of the cases the Commission has seen recently. A discussion was had about Commission goals.

Regarding the schools, Commissioner Shedid said the Commission should follow up with the School Department about whether they achieved the goals Jim Maloney had outlined for the Commission during his presentation. The school subcommittee members spoke about their work and Commissioners spoke about inviting Jim Maloney to return to a future meeting.

Approved October 4, 2012

Commissioners discussed the need to balance their desire to undertake tasks with their ability to commit as volunteers. They also discussed their desire to continue to reach out to and engage the Cambridge community. The Commission agreed to continue this discussion at next month's meeting.

#### **6. Meeting of subcommittees**

The Immigrant Rights subcommittee met and worked on the survey that CET will be giving. The Schools Subcommittee requested that Jim Maloney be invited to an upcoming Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.