



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, November 7, 2013

Present: Commissioners Chanta Bhan, Bonita Cox, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Kerry Gough, Brendan St. Amant, and Randa Shedid; and City staff Nancy Schlacter, Mariah Freark and Carmen S. Negrón.

Absent: Commissioners Elaine Angelone, Kim T. Nghiem and Mercedes Evans.

Guest: Police Superintendent Chris Burke, Police Deputy Superintendent Paul Ames, Police Legal Advisor Jim Mulcahy and a student from Mount Ida College in Newton, who was here to observe.

Documents Used:

- October 2013 minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Bonita Cox called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. October Minutes Approval

Commissioner Gonzalez-Brenes motioned to approve the October minutes. Commissioner Shedid seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved. (Commissioners Bhan, Cox, Gonzalez-Brenes, Gough, St. Amant, and Shedid.)

4. CPD Presentation re: Surveillance Camera Policy

CPD Legal Advisor Attorney Jim Mulcahy gave a presentation regarding the cameras that were purchased with funds from Homeland Security. He stated that the cameras have been installed but not turned on. He addressed common concerns about the cameras, explaining that these cameras don't have extremely high resolution, so they would be unable to identify individuals. He explained that the main purpose of the cameras is to monitor critical infrastructure, such as traffic along evacuation routes, but that they offer a secondary benefit of assisting in solving crimes. He stated that the cameras have been installed in public spaces and will be passively monitored. He stated that several issues, such as whether the footage from the cameras would be posted online, as well as the retention policy, are still in draft. In response to a question from the Commission, CPD Deputy Superintendent Paul Ames stated that CPD employees working with the cameras would receive technical and ethical training. The Commission thanked the presenters for their time.

5. Executive Director's Report

E.D. Schlacter updated the Commission on pending cases, the status of selecting new Commissioners, outreach and staff activities. She also informed the Commissioners about upcoming events of interest, and reminded them about the upcoming mediation training. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of participating in CPD's door-to-door campaign in the spring. Supt. Burke will look into it and report back to the Commission.

6. October meeting follow-up

a. Transgender homeless

Commissioners Bhan and Gonzalez-Brenes and E.D. Schlacter have a meeting scheduled with GLBT Commission representatives to discuss next steps.

b. Outreach brainstorm based on Daney Park Day & CET mtg.

Commissioners stated they would like to continue brainstorming other outreach opportunities. Commissioners want to add this to the December agenda.

c. Commissioner Bhan: Human Trafficking

Commissioner Bhan spoke about an incident she witnessed recently in which some individuals were talking on the phone in a public place and she overheard them talking about their child trafficking plans. She is concerned that these things are happening so close to home and is wondering what could be done. Supt. Burke spoke about recent incidents and law enforcement efforts, and will send E.D. Schlacter some information regarding human trafficking prevention so she could forward it to Commissioners.

7. New Business

Chris Cotter from the Community Development Department will be on the December's agenda, discussing Affordable Housing in Cambridge.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. Next Commission meeting is Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.