



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission**  
**Thursday, September 5, 2013**

Present: Commissioners Elaine Angelone, Chanta Bhan, Bonita Cox, Mercedes Evans, Kerry Gough, Kim Nghiem, Brendan St. Amant, Randa Shedid, and City staff Nancy Schlacter, Mariah Freark and Carmen S. Negrón.

Guests: Alex Marthews and Police Superintendent Chris Burke.

Absent: Commissioner Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes

**Documents Used:**

- June 2013 minutes
- Powerpoint slides provided by Mr. Marthews
- CHRC's original shelter survey and Commissioner Bhan's notes on her shelter interview
- Letters to parents

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**3. Introductions**

New Commissioners Gough and Nghiem introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Commission.

**4. Presentation on Fourth Amendment Rights**

Mr. Marthews is the President of Digital Fourth, a non-profit advocacy group in Cambridge. He gave a presentation on surveillance. Mr. Marthews stated that capability for government surveillance is increasing as technology advances. After the presentation Mr. Marthews answered questions from Commissioners. A discussion was had about surveillance cameras in Cambridge. Commissioners are concerned with what areas the cameras are placed in, and what crimes the cameras would be focusing on. Police Superintendent Burke explained that Cambridge Police are less concerned with "quality of life crimes," such as sleeping outside or public urination, because CPD has a targeted outreach program to reach the homeless population. Supt. Burke said that information on surveillance is crucial to solving crime, that hundreds of crimes have been solved with the information from these cameras, and that crime solving is the value he sees in the use of cameras. He then offered to have an expert from the Police Department give a presentation on CPD's camera policies. Commissioners think this would be helpful. Supt. Burke requested that Commissioners provide him their questions in advance.

The Commission thanked Mr. Marthews for his presentation and Superintendent Burke for his comments.

**5. Approval of June Minutes**

Minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Commissioner Cox and seconded by Commissioner Shedid (Commissioners Cox, Angelone, Bhan, Evans, Gough, Nghiem, St. Amant and Shedid).

**6. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Schlacter gave an extended report on Commission activities since June. She announced that there are two more vacancies on the commission because Commissioners Barrett and Velázquez have resigned. She gave an update on staff activities, trainings, cases, and outreach.

## **7. June meeting follow-up**

### **a. Transgender homeless**

Commissioner Bhan briefed the Commission on her attempts to interview staff at several New York homeless shelters. The Commission agreed to discuss next steps on this issue at next month's meeting.

### **b. Letters to parents**

Executive Director Schlacter reported that she had sent the letters to the parents and to Ms. Sprengnether as was agreed upon at the June meeting. She passed around copies of these letters for Commissioners to review.

## **8. New Business**

Executive Director Schlacter asked if Commissioners were still interested in having Chris Cotter from Community Development give a presentation on Affordable Housing in Cambridge. Commissioners said they would be interested.

Chair Cox stated that we need to elect a new Vice Chair so nominations and voting will take place at the October meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Next Commission meeting is Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.**