



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, June 4, 2015

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

Absent: Commissioners Mercedes Evans, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes

Guest: Alice LoCicero, Clinical Psychologist, Adjunct Professor at Lesley University, Professor at the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at Boston Medical Center

Documents Used:

- May Minutes
- City of Cambridge Domestic Violence Leave Policy (issued June 2015)
- Email correspondence between Commissioner Gonzalez-Brenes and Katie King, Director of State Relations in the Office of Mayor Martin J. Walsh, City of Boston

1. Call to order

Chair Bhan called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Alice LoCicero, Clinical Psychologist and Professor at Lesley University and at the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at Boston Medical Center, discussed her desire to host an event to commemorate the Boston marathon bombings.

3. Review and Approval of May Minutes

Commissioner Davila stated that she misspoke at the May meeting when she stated that Black Lives Matter was going to host a job fair for Black men of color on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Danger Awesome. Commissioner Davila stated that this event did not happen and its supposed occurrence may have been a misunderstanding on her part. Commissioner Gough moved to approve the May minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davila.

4. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Schlacter updated the Commission on cases and staff activities. ED Schlacter informed the Commission that she is involved in a number of staff collaborations with the GLBT Commission, the Cambridge Health Department, and the Community Engagement Team. ED Schlacter and Attorney Investigator (AI) Acloque attended a meeting sponsored by the MCAD to discuss enforcement strategies across the region. Many Commissioners attended the Determination Review Training held on Monday, June 1, 2015. Materials from the training will be included in the orientation packet for new Commissioners. ED Schlacter informed the Commission that the City recently issued a Domestic Violence Leave Policy allowing City employees to take time off from work to address issues related to domestic violence and abuse.

5. May meeting follow-up:

- **Update on the Status of the Fair Housing Bills Pending in the State Legislature**

Commissioner Gonzalez-Brenes provided follow up information on the status of H.1301 – An Act to increase fair housing protections for survivors of domestic violence; and H.2049 – An Act relative to lead abatement. Commissioner Leydon moved to create a subcommittee to create a draft letter articulating the Commission’s support for the domestic violence bill. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion. The subcommittee will be comprised of Commissioners Reyes and Nghiem. The letter will be reviewed by the Commission at the next Commission meeting, and voted on if a quorum is present. Commissioner Cox moved to draft a letter articulating the Commission’s support for the lead abatement bill following the same procedure as above. Commissioner Nghiem seconded this motion. Commissioner Cox volunteered to draft the letter regarding the Commission’s support for the lead abatement bill.

- **Conciliation Training at the Community Dispute Settlement Center**

The training was approved by HUD and will be held for the Commission on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the Community Dispute Settlement Center at 60 Gore Street.

6. New Business

- **Alice LoCicero presentation regarding Marathon Bombings remembrance event and possible Commission support**

Ms. LoCicero stated that she believes the community should come together to host an event in the aftermath of the marathon bombings. She proposed hosting a community art project with the purpose of healing all those affected by the bombings. Ms. LoCicero asked if the Commission is willing to support her in her efforts in a number of ways: by endorsing her, helping her plan the event, or by helping her address the City Council about her desire to have this event. Ms. LoCicero envisions the event taking place one year from now. Commissioner Gough suggested that the Commission think about Ms. LoCicero’s proposal before responding to her request. Commissioner Davila motioned for the Commission to spend more time discussing Ms. LoCicero’s request for support.

7. Outreach Subcommittee

- **Rethinking Fair Housing event – outreach to schools and youth centers/review outreach materials for event**

ED Schlacter stated that she spoke to an administrator at the CPS Welcoming Schools program to find out how to better connect to Art and/or Social Studies teachers to encourage their classes to make posters and write essays for the fair housing contest. Commissioner Davila stated that there is a symposium in June during which public school teachers re-think/revise their curriculum. Commissioner Davila offered to contact the symposium’s organizer to find out which teachers would be interested in participating in the fair housing contest. Commissioner Nghiem invited the Commission to come to an after school program at Windsor Street Health Center to engage with members of the Latino and Haitian community. ED Schlacter stated that the Commission can provide art supplies to a program, once an art-making event is developed, so that students can make posters for the fair housing contest. Commissioner Selk stated that the head of the Cambridge Friends School has agreed to include fair housing in his school’s ethics course. Commissioner Selk stated that she would introduce him to ED Schlacter. ED Schlacter stated that she will continue doing outreach to the after school programs and youth centers to spread awareness about the Commission’s fair housing contest.

- **RiverFest Outreach Table**

ED Schlacter confirmed that all materials have already been picked up by the Department of Public Works. ED Schlacter asked the Commissioners who will be working at the event to assist the Commission for Persons with Disabilities with packing up their materials when the event is finished. Commissioner Bhan stated that she might be late for her shift but that she would let the appropriate Commissioner know.

- **CHRC presentation materials**

The Commission agreed to set aside time during the July meeting to review the Commission's presentation materials.

8. Other Matters Discussed

- ED Schlacter informed the Commission that the Mayor will be hosting a Pride Brunch on Saturday, June 13, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at City Hall. A bus will be available to take those who attend the brunch to the Gay Pride Parade afterwards. Commissioner Lakhani stated that she would attend the brunch.
- Commissioner Lakhani invited the Commission to table at a climate summit event on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at the Saint Peter's Episcopal Church from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ED Schlacter stated that she would provide outreach materials for this event. Commissioner Lakhani will send the invitation details of the event to ED Schlacter who will then forward it along to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Reyes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Selk.

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