



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, November 5, 2015**

Present: ED Schlacter, Commissioners Chanta Bhan, Bonita Cox, Nicholas Leydon, Sabrina Selk, and CHRC staff Crystal Rosa and Sabrina Acloque.

Absent: Commissioners Nadia Davila, Mercedes Evans, Zainab Lakhani, Kerry Gough, Kim Nghiem and Harry Reyes.

Documents Used:

- October Minutes
- Letter in Support for Bill H. 1301 written by Vice-Chair Reyes
- CHRC flyer for the poster making event created by Cambridge Public Library

1. Call to order

Chair Bhan called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Chris Cotter, Community Development Department- Director of Housing

The Commission listened to an informative presentation on Affordable Housing efforts and programs available in Cambridge. Mr. Cotter described Cambridge's Inclusionary Program, requiring developers to include a percentage of Affordable Housing units in new construction projects; the First-Time Home Buyers Program; senior placements, and expiring use restrictions on existing privately owned affordable housing buildings. Mr. Cotter provided a detailed summary regarding each area of focus. Mr. Cotter also discussed the development of Cambridge's Citywide Master Plan. Mr. Cotter addressed concerns and ensured that affordable housing units mirror market value units.

4. Review and Approval of October Minutes

Chair Bhan made a correction to her title as it was written in the minutes. No quorum was present, therefore the October minutes could not be approved. Administrative Coordinator Rosa will make the changes addressed and prepare the revised October minutes for the December meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

ED Schlacter updated the Commission on cases, staff activities, outreach and trainings. There are 3 new cases, 8 pending, and 1 closed case since the October meeting. ED Schlacter has been collaborating with the Community Engagement Team and planning meetings with the GLBT Commission for a networking/outreach event in December. ED Schlacter met with Mercedes Soto, Department of Human Services -Youth Division, about having Youth Center art-making for next year's Fair Housing contest. ED Schlacter later met with Youth Center Directors about participation in 2016 Fair Housing contest. Chair Bhan, Vice-Chair Reyes, Bonita Cox, and Nadia Davila agreed on a draft letter to Cambridge State Legislative Delegation in Support of House Bill 1301 re: "Act to Increase Fair Housing Protections for Survivors of Domestic Violence." ED Schlacter and Attorney Investigator Acloque completed an online HUD/HEMS training in October. Administrative Coordinator Rosa completed a required new hire training

on Diversity in Employment Workshop. CHRC staff and Commissioners Lakhani, Selk, Reyes, Cox and Evans completed 7 hours of conciliation training with the Community Dispute Settlement Center. ED Schlacter attended the City Council Neighborhood & Long-term Planning Committee Hearing on Syrian Refugees. ED Schlacter and Attorney Investigator Acloque attended the Cambridge Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative Launch. CHRC staff and Commissioners Evans, Cox, Selk and Reyes attended the Mayor's Boards & Commissions Reception where Commissioner Evans was the first recipient of the Danehy Public Service Award.

6. October meeting follow-up:

- **H. 1301 Domestic Violence Survivors as protected class for c. 151B.**
The Commission's approved letter was sent with minor edits made by Elizabeth Speakman, Executive Director of Initiative on Domestic Violence, to the State Legislative Delegation. Edits were approved by Vice-Chair Reyes prior to mailing.
- **Time-line for November 7th and 14th Fair Housing poster-making at Library: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**
Commissioners and CHRC staff assisting with the poster making were instructed to arrive at 1:30 p.m. for set up. ED Schlacter will deliver a presentation on CHRC and the Commissioners will facilitate a Fair Housing law true/false warm up for the students.
- **Outreach to Youth Centers Directors about Fair Housing event**
ED Schlacter will confirm art making with up to 5 Youth Centers.
- **Outreach to Cambridge Art Center Director about Fair Housing art making event**
ED Schlacter emailed with CAC Director Eryn Johnson, who expressed interest in CAC participating. ED Schlacter will coordinate date of possible art making event to take place at the art center.

7. New Business

- No quorum was present therefore no new business was discussed for approval.
- Attorney Investigator Acloque's experience at the IAOHRA Conference will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Outreach Subcommittee

- **Review outreach materials for Fair Housing event**
The Commission reviewed the poster created by the Cambridge Public Library for the November 7 and November 14 art making events.
- **CHRC presentation materials**
Review & reconsider approach after Library art making event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.