



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, October 1, 2015**

Present: ED Schlacter, Commissioners Chanta Bhan, Bonita Cox, Nadia Davila, Mercedes Evans, Zainab Lakhani, Nicholas Leydon, Harry Reyes, and CHRC staff Crystal Rosa.

Absent: Commissioners Kerry Gough, Kim Nghiem, Sabrina Selk, and CHRC staff Sabrina Acloque.

Documents Used:

- September Minutes
- Search results print out of Cambridge delegation in Massachusetts Legislature
- Draft Letter in Support for Bill H. 1301 written by Vice-Chair Reyes

1. Call to order

Chair Bhan called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Review and Approval of September Minutes

Vice-Chair Harry Reyes and ED Schlacter made minor typo edits to the September minutes. Commissioner Cox moved to approve the September minutes with edits made; seconded by Vice-Chair Reyes. Unanimous vote reached of Commissioners in attendance at the September meeting.

4. Executive Director's Report

ED Schlacter updated the Commission on cases, staff activities, outreach and trainings. ED Schlacter attended the MA Fair Housing Coalition meeting in Worcester, which is one of four Coalition meetings held per year, to discuss plans for the MCAD's April Fair Housing Conference. ED Schlacter also attended the Boston Office of Fair Housing and Equity and Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination's 15th Anniversary of their Fair Housing and Civil Rights Partnership. The ceremony was held at the African Meeting House. CHRC staff member Rosa completed the Massachusetts Ethics Law online training course. ED Schlacter, Commissioners Reyes, Selk, Evans and CHRC staff Acloque and Rosa attended the Attorney General's Office Open Meeting Law training at the Main Library. Vice-Chair Reyes passed out the AGO's PowerPoint training materials to the Commission. Both ED Schlacter and Attorney Investigator Acloque attended the Cambridge Continuum of Care Charrette on Homelessness. The Charrette focused on developing and planning with experts along with commentary from the homeless community. The organizers will follow up the event with a report in the near future. ED Schlacter explained that Attorney Investigator Acloque was attending the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, and would update the Commission on her experience at the next meeting.

5. September meeting follow-up:

- **Fair Housing Bills (3) pending in Legislature– Update on draft support letters**

Vice-Chair Reyes drafted a letter to the state Senate Judiciary Committee stating the Commission's support for Bill H. 1301. The draft letter was reviewed and supported by the Commission. Edits were addressed and Vice-Chair Reyes will submit final draft to ED Schlacter for printing on CHRC letterhead. The letter will go to the Bill sponsors and Cambridge legislative representatives. Commissioner Lakhani motioned to accept the letter with edits and footnotes added and the names of each Commissioner member present also added to the final draft. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and a unanimous vote was reached.

- **Outreach to Cambridge Youth Centers Director about Commission's Fair Housing Event**
ED Schlacter explained that the Division Head of Youth Programs has been unresponsive to date. ED Schlacter will contact Youth Center Directors to organize presentations regarding the Commission's 2016 Fair Housing Event.
- **Time-line for November 7th and 14th Fair Housing poster-making at Library: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**
ED Schlacter will be meeting with the Library's graphic designer to produce Fair Housing Event poster and graphics. CHRC will be providing art supplies for Library poster-making.
- **Email from Commissioner Nghiem regarding Cambridge Art Center and poster-making interest**
ED Schlacter will follow up with Commissioner Nghiem to find out more information. The possible outreach opportunity may need to be conducted by CHRC staff due to the Commission's limited workday availability.
- **Feedback from Danehy Park Family Day outreach table**
Commissioners Cox and Evans worked an outreach table at Danehy Park Family Day. The Commissioners reported a slow turn out at the table but the event was well attended by the community.
- **Community Development Department - Housing Director Cotter available for 11/5/15 CHRC mtg.**

6. New Business

- **Public transit effects on public health – is it an equity issue?**
Vice-Chair Reyes led a discussion regarding health research conducted in Boston that examines whether disparities with access to public health exist in relation to use of transit. Specifically, how dependencies on bus travel effected access to public health. Vice-Chair Reyes proposed that the issue be raised in Cambridge as it relates to fairness and equity.

7. Outreach Subcommittee

- **Review outreach materials for Fair Housing event**
Currently being outsourced to Library's graphic designer.
- **CHRC presentation materials – review & reconsider**
Commissioners Leydon and Reyes may work on updating outreach material and present their revised designs to the Commission on a later date, depending on the image graphics created by the Public Library's graphic designer.

- **Use of Facebook to promote Fair Housing event**
CHRC will be focusing its outreach efforts elsewhere.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Lakhani.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.