



# Cambridge Peace Commission

*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • December 14, 2016

**Commission Members Present:** Co-Chair Larry Kim, John Ratliff, and Regina Yang.

**City Staff Present:** Executive Director Brian Corr, and Program Coordinator Crystal Rosa.

**Commission Members Absent:** Co-Chair Frank Connelly, Georges Atallah, Aboma Dirbaba, Lijun Li, James Eliscar, Elechi Kadete, and Gladys Friedler.

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

The November meeting minutes were not approved because a quorum was not present.

### Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Corr provided a brief history of Cambridge's Sanctuary City Policy. After the Presidential election, in a joint statement, Mayor E. Denise Simmons and City Manager Louis A. DePasquale reaffirmed the City's continued commitment to support Cambridge as a Sanctuary City. A couple weeks later, the City Council members, the City Manager, and other city staff participated in a roundtable discussion on the meaning of being a Sanctuary City. Executive Director Corr also explained some of the financial repercussions if the new federal administration were to cut funding from Sanctuary Cities.
- Executive Director Corr also described his involvement with the City's response to the massive December 3 fire in East Cambridge that left more than 100 people without housing. There will be two fundraisers at Middle East Restaurant and Puritan Restaurant in support for the victims who lost their housing in the fire. Co-Chair Kim also described his experience as one of the Police Chaplains who helped with managing emergency services at the shelter.
- Planning for the 2017 Martin Luther King Day Commemoration is ongoing. Congresswoman Katherine Clark is the keynote speaker, and music still needs to be finalized. Program Coordinator Rosa needs a helper to assist with the luncheon portion of the event.

### New Business

- Commission member Ratliff provided a brief summary of *The Next Four Years: Building our Movements in Dangerous Times* conference he attended on December 3, 2016. This conference was sponsored by Peace Action, AFSC, and Progressive Democrats of America. Commission member Ratliff commented that the conference was very successful with over 400 attendees, and that Executive Director Corr was one of the panelists.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

*The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.*