Cambridge Human Rights Commission
October 1, 2026
Virtual Public Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairs Sam Myers and Olinda Marshall and Commissioners Mercedes Evans, Stefanie Haug, Sue Mapel, Stephen Curran, Caroline Palavicino Maggio, Beverly Sealey and Judith Laguerre.

City Staff: Executive Director Carolina Almonte, Attorney Investigator Vannessa Carr, and Superintendent Fredrick Cabral.

Members of the Public: None

Absent: Yasmin Padamsee Forbes and Fiqir Worku

1. **Call to Order**
    - Chair Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
2. **Public Comments**
    - No public comment
3. **Review and approval of October 2025 Minutes**
    - The Commission reviewed the minutes from the meeting in September 2026. Commissioner Mapel moved to approve the minutes; Commissioners Evans seconded. Vote passed.
4. **Presentation: Marly Frederique, Lawyers for Civil Rights**
    - LCR conducts litigation and Advocacy, including Know Your Rights Presentations, Impact Litigation, legal clinics, small business support
    - Focus Areas: Immigrant rights, housing, education, police accountability, workers rights, voting rights
    - Training opportunities: habitability and inspectional services training and SOI discrimination training
    - Next KYR will be on November 10, 2026 and November 16, 2026
    - Commissioners identified overlap with the work of LCR and CHRC and expressed interest in collaborating with LCR on programming
5. **Staff Reports**
    - ED Almonte
        - Office move to the first floor is complete!
        - CHRC received $55,000 in HUD grants with the stipulation that we limit the number of protected classes to align with federal

standards. ED Almonte is discussing this stipulation with the law department.
    - CHRC is updating the human rights ordinance.
        - Commissioner Evans expressed interest in learning more about the process and the home rule petition.
- Al Carr
    - 1 new intake – housing case; disability discrimination
    - Pending Lack of Probable Cause determination for family status discrimination housing case.
    - Pending Probable Cause determination for disability discrimination housing case.
    - Successful meidation in a disability dicrimination housing case where complainant recieved a seven-week rent concession and reimbursement for hotel expenses.
    - Update on Commission Initated Case: Staff provided a status update, including the possibility of mediation. Commissioners discussed Commission initiated complaint procedures, opportunities for involvement, and potential training and guidance.
    - Commissioners discussed public records laws and maintaining confidentiality.

6. **Old Business**
    - Reminder: In-person November Meeting at 689 Mass Ave
7. **New Business**
    - Family Preparedness Planning Update – In-person, 1 hour presentation and 1 hour workshop, notaries will be present!
    - Danehy Park Day and Movie Screening were successful examples of CHRC Community Engagement.
    - HRC Presentation to Margaret Fuller House
        - HRC has been invited to present on Cambridge's anti-discrimination ordinances at Margaret fuller house.
        - Commissioner Sealey suggested presenting at the Cambridge Community Center.
8. **Adjournment**
    - Commissioner Curran moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. Commissioner Haug seconded.