



Shameka Gregory
Executive Director

NOTE TO COMMISSIONERS & STAFF:

If you have not yet told Shameka whether you will be attending in person, virtually, or not at all, please let her know at Shameka Gregory <SGregory@CambridgeMA.gov>.

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

AGENDA:

April 23, 2026

Location: Virtual Only

Neighborhood: City Wide

Contact

- Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission <LGBTQ@Cambridgema.gov>
- 617-349-3355

Agenda

Co-Chairs: Bill Barnert and Zachary Dresser
Tonight's meeting chaired by: Zachary Dresser

Attendance: Chairs Dresser and Barnert, Commissioners Kamelamela, Huhmann, MacDonough

Virtual: Commissioners Bordone, MacKay

Absent: Commissioners Arce, Howe, Egleson, Monrreal, and Foster

Call to Order

Chair Dresser calls the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

- **Welcome**

- **Approve / Modify Agenda**
 - Chair Barnert motions. Chair Dresser seconds. All approve.
- **Approve Previous Minutes: 3/26/26**
Chair Dresser motions to approve. Chair Barnert seconds. All approve.
- **Introductions** What is your personal sign/indicator that it's Spring!
- **Updates on Previous Action Items**
 - Re: Rose Lipkin Award (Pride):
 - Commissioner Howe connected with Arthur Lipkin. Process is to reach out to advisor of Project 10 and Sam Musher inquiring about potential awardee.
 - Re: Budget:
 - ED Gregory requested additional \$5000 for Commission budget for programming. Request currently sitting with City Manager for his approval or rejection. If approved, it goes before the Council for a final decision. ED Gregory will keep Commission apprised of progress.
 - Budget hearings are May 5th. No updates on City Manager budget as of now.
 - Re: Working Group mission, goals, & purpose.
 - Commissioner Monrreal will look at archives and figure out where to go from there
 - ED Gregory will follow up with entire Commission to see if anyone else would like to participate in the Pride Working Group. **[Sent Mon, Mar 30]**
 - Working group is Chair Dresser, Commissioner Monrreal, and ED Gregory. Met once with another meeting scheduled April 27th.
 - Re: Inconsistencies in housing recommendations compared to current housing applications.
 - Phoebe West suggested inviting others who are over these processes. Commissioner Foster will send Commissioner Huhmann's notes and invite these people to one of the next two working group meetings.
 - Invited to Trans Sanctuary working group. ED Gregory will see where things stand with that invitation.
 - Re: Recruitment poster for youth commissioner -
 - Youth working group will ensure flyer is provided in time for Youth Pride (May 16, 2026). **[Flyer is ready, waiting to find out if we will be recruiting new commissioners by then.]**
 - Department staff member Rachel Alexander working on flyer. Draft for early May. Flyer will be ready for Youth Pride
 - ED Gregory will send email to recruit Commissioners for tabling at Trans-friendly Pool Party, Queer Intentional Families, Multi-Generational LGBTQ+ Dinner, Youth Pride, Mayfair, Boston Pride, & Cambridge Pride **[Sent Mon, Mar 30]**
 - Had a very busy April which was spectacular
 - Want to do a better job recruiting or inviting youth for multi-generational dinner
 - Be more intentional about collecting feedback following events

- ED Gregory to send blank “Hearts for Queer Youth” to Commissioners electronically & collect responses for Sam Musher (CPS). **[Sent Mon, Mar 30]**
 - Send pictures of completed display to Commissioners
- **Project Updates** (current actions & plans, including reports from ED Gregory)
 - *(Monthly until resolved)*: Status update on Fair Housing Ordinance change in definition of sexualities
 - Language did not pass in Human Rights Meeting
 - ED Gregory will send updated language from HRC with Commission **[Sent 5/4/26]**
- **Working Group Reports**
 - Outreach & Visibility WG (Commissioner MacDonough & Chair Barnert)
 - Queer Intentional Families Panel was very well received, but with a small audience.
 - Commissioner MacDonough shares thanks for event. It was really great. Pleased with the event.
 - Welcomes ideas from commissioners about other events
 - Commissioner Kamelamela happy with the way things unfolded. Main branch library auditorium is a fantastic location
 - Chair Barnert talking to library staff about improving lighting situation. There are a limited # of pre-set lights which can be challenging.
 - Basic design for billboard done, being finalized by staff member Rachel Alexander.
 - Working from theme, “Cambridge it’s always been a little bit queer”. Collage on queer history in Cambridge. Working hard to get image permissions. Chair Barnert shared a large number of photos with her.
 - Policy & Advocacy (Commissioner Monrreal)
 - Pride (ED Gregory) - Cambridge Pride has been shifted to Saturday, June 20th. There were too many other competing events going on June 13th. We could have moved forward with that date but we wouldn’t have had the City resources we need for the day such as DPW.
 - Had successful special events meeting. Going to close Inman St. Water truck secured. Gathering quotes from vendors (entertainment, food, etc). to stay on budget. Food trucks or restaurants that can send servers. Mayor’s office ordering, “Cambridge Pride” swag. Use stamp system to get people to visit vendors to get swag.
 - Need people to volunteer to notify neighbors!
 - Public Health & Safety WG (Commissioner Monrreal)
 - Seniors WG (Commissioner MacKay)
 - Had great event with multi-generational dinner. Lovely time enjoyed by all
 - Book club coming up next. Great flyer. Unsure if they need to send it out
 - ED Gregory will send out flyer to contact list

- Trans Sanctuary WG (Commissioner Foster)
- Youth WG (Commissioner Howe)
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
 - An organization called webinar.tv contacted us to tell us that they were highlighting one of our Working Group meetings to entice people to watch it. But we don't want our meetings recorded or published, so ED Gregory is talking to IT about this.
 - Zine Updates
 - Chair Barnert-In holding pattern. Chair Barnert and Commissioner Huhmann get together to smash things together to come up with cohesive description of what they want. Will meet to discuss
 - Chair Barnert is away for most of May
 - Sam Musher (CPS) has invited us to collaborate on the showing of a film ***The Dads***. ("Amid rising anti-trans legislation and hostility in the US, dads forming a movement to support their trans and gender expansive children face an impossible choice.") There is a 10-minute short film & a 1:12 documentary version. <https://www.thedadsfoundation.org/host-a-screening-or-fundraiser>
 - We have been invited by the City Manager to a Civic Leadership Celebration on Wednesday evening, April 29, 2026. Details were emailed from ED Gregory to Commissioners on Apr 10th. Please come if you can.
 - We have been contacted by two queer performers, Joel Light and Dan Moore, and asked if we would like to do a one-hour LGBTQ+ sing-along "participatory celebration of LGBTQ+ Songs."
 - Commissioners have additional questions. Feel that if it's free, it's a no brainer activity to offer.
 - Questions
 1. Is there a timeline?
 2. Is it a kid's program?
 3. Suggested senior center
 4. Contact for pricing, timing, if they'd participate in another event?
Any video or anything to view?
 - Chair Barnert sent instagram link
 - **New tabling opportunity: CIRC & HRC Celebration - Saturday, May 9th from 11-2**
 - "The Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship and the Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with several housing-focused City departments, are hosting a Community Celebration on Saturday, May 9 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the King Open School.
 - We would love to invite your Commissions to table at the event. We're expecting approximately 300 to 400 attendees, and it will be a great opportunity to connect with community members and share resources."

- ED Gregory would like Commission to lean in. Build relationships with CIRC. Want to do an event specifically for LGBTQ+ immigrants at some point.
- **Public Comments / Announcements**
 - Commissioner Departure
 - Chair Dresser shares that we currently have twelve Commissioners which means we need seven to have a quorum. (*Co-chairs Bill Barnert & Zachary Dresser, and Commissioners Bob Bordone, Caitlin Egleson, Emmy Howe, Evan MacKay, Finley Foster, Frank Arce, Gregory MacDonough, Linden Huhmann, Noelani Kamelamela, & Dx. Vincent Daveed (Vinny) Monrreal.)
 1. Commissioner Bordone motions to begin recruitment. Commissioner Kamelamela seconds. All approve.
 - Program Manager Update
 - ED Gregory interviewed 6 candidates. 3 or 4 moving on to second round interviews. Should be making an offer in early May.
 - Upcoming films in the LGBTQ+ Film Series at the Cambridge Senior Center (First Tuesdays, 10am):
 - May 5: **Infamous** - In Kansas, with childhood friend Harper Lee (Sandra Bullock), author Truman Capote (Toby Jones) developed an intense and complex relationship with convicted killer Perry Smith (Daniel Craig) while researching what would become one of his greatest works, In Cold Blood.
 - June 2: **The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert** - When drag queen Anthony (Hugo Weaving) agrees to take his act on the road, he invites fellow cross-dresser Adam (Guy Pearce) and trans Bernadette (Terence Stamp) to come along. In their colorful bus, named Priscilla, the three performers travel across the Australian desert performing for enthusiastic crowds and homophobic locals. But when the other two performers learn the truth about why Anthony took the job, it threatens their act and their friendship.
- **Next Commission Meeting:** Thursday, May 28th, 6-7:30pm, Hybrid*
- Chair Dresser adjourns meeting 6:32 pm

*** Hybrid meeting info**

GUESTS: Please let us know if you will be coming, and whether you will be joining us in person or via Zoom by emailing LGBTQ@CambridgeMA.gov.

To join in person, come to 689 Mass. Ave, Cambridge. If the front door is locked, call us at 617-349-3355. Come up to the 2nd floor and follow the signs.

To join via Zoom, join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/89723365868>

Meeting ID: 897 2336 5868

One tap mobile +19294362866,,89723365868# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://cambridgema.zoom.us/u/kcYg8JwbK>