



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, June 2, 2016**

Present: Commissioners, Harry Reyes, Nadia Davila, Nicholas Leydon, Bonita Cox, Sabrina Selk, Robert Slate, Olinda Marshall, Chara Itoka and CHRC Staff Nancy Schlacter, Sabrina Acloque and Crystal Rosa.

Absent: Commissioners Chanta Bhan, Mercedes Evans, and Zainab Lakhani,

Documents Used:

- May Minutes
- June Agenda
- Brennan Center for Justice information sheet – Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): Myths and Facts
- Summerfield, Derek. “Mandating doctors to attend counter-terrorism workshops is medically unethical.” *BJ Psych Bulletin*, 2016: 1-2.
- When to Report Violent Extremism, FBI print out on CVE.
- “Countering Violent Extremism: Community Perspectives and Concerns,” Muslim Justice League report.

1. Call to order

Chair Bhan called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Review and approval of March Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the May meeting and approved them unanimously on a motion from Commissioner Leydon, seconded by Commissioner Davila, with edits addressed.

4. Executive Director’s Report

ED Schlacter updated the Commission on cases, staff activities, and outreach. Since the March meeting 0 new case opened, 4 cases are pending and 2 have closed. The four cases pending are housing or public accommodations matters. The two cases closed were housing matters. ED Schlacter has continued her regular collaboration with the Community Engagement Team (CET). ED Schlacter and Attorney Investigator (AI) Acloque attended the Boston Office of Fair Housing and Equity (BOFHE) Best Practices meeting, at which various fair housing issues were discussed. ED Schlacter continues to work with the GLBT Commission supervising projects regarding LGBTQ inclusiveness in afterschool programs and senior housing. AI Acloque conducted a brown bag workshop on Fair Housing Rights during a monthly meeting of the DHSP’s Continuum of Care (COC) staff. ED Schlacter and AI Acloque attended a two-day conference - Government Alliance on Race & Equity Summit at Northeastern University. The summit focused on government’s responsibility to be mindful of equity and fairness in its work. ED Schlacter and Administrative

Coordinator Rosa each completed a National Fair Housing Training Academy course to fulfill HUD's training requirements.

5. Commissioner and staff introductions to new members

ED Schlacter provided our newest members, Olinda Marshall and Chara Itoka, a training packet with CHRC ordinances, the open meeting law guide, state ethics summary, and a determination training. When new members are ready to review case determinations, they will pair up with a seasoned Commissioner and follow their review process.

6. Presentation by Shannon Erwin, Executive Director of the Muslim Justice League

Ms. Erwin provided background information regarding the FBI's new program Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). According to Ms. Erwin, there are examples from a similar program in the UK, that show harmful effects on the Muslim community when the government funds programs that promote Muslims profiling and surveilling members of the Muslim community. Although the FBI's program is new and has not been fully implemented, Ms. Erwin explained that features of CVE mimic those of the British program, where broad behaviors were used to identify indicators of radicalization within a marginalized community. One of many possible concerns is the threat to confidentiality in the health profession. Ms. Erwin described the creation of multi-disciplinary teams that include social workers, Imams, public safety officers, and mental health professionals, to rehabilitate individuals that have been identified as exhibiting warning signs of violent extremism. The Muslim Justice League calls for the program to be made transparent about their practices and strategies. The Muslim Justice League also calls for organizations to make pledges of nonparticipation.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Commissioner Slate motioned for the Commission to reflect its opposition to the CVE program. Members of the Commission expressed their interest to learn more, for a balanced perspective on CVE. Commissioner Itoka volunteered to conduct fact-finding research to identify a speaker who could present an alternative perspective.

7. May meeting follow-up:

- **Collaboration with local efforts about Islamophobia/Xenophobia in Cambridge – to be discussed at a later date**

Commissioner Lakhani was not present to discuss the topic. During the May meeting, Commissioner Lakhani stated she would follow up with her community and report any concerns that need addressing.

- **Nicole Horton from DHSP Inclusion Initiative**

Ms. Horton is scheduled to speak at the September meeting regarding the use of IEPs for after school programs.

- **Title IX Coordinators – Cambridge Universities and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School**

ED Schlacter has invited the Title IX Coordinators to speak in a panel to inform the Commission of their work regarding allegations of sexual assault/harassment on local campuses. The panel is not yet scheduled but projected to occur during the October or November meetings.

- **HUD funding for updated outreach materials**

HUD recently accepted CHRC's statement of work for the redesign of the Fair Housing discrimination brochure and development of an intradepartmental brochure about the City's services addressing lead paint. The HUD grant will also fund the creation of an online story journal on lead paint. These updated outreach materials will be custom designed and professionally translated into a number of predominant foreign languages used by residents of Cambridge. Members of the Commission will meet on Monday, June 6, to brainstorm the content needed for the brochures. This brainstorming gathering will not have a quorum, Commissioners Cox, Slate, Reyes, and Leydon volunteered to help with the task.

8. New Business

- **Y2Y Shelter invitation**

Commissioner Cox motioned to invite the co-founder of the Y2Y Shelter to speak about creating a welcoming gender-neutral environment for December 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leydon and approved unanimously.

- **Section 8 Vouchers** – ED Schlacter will contact Cambridge Housing Authority to request an informative presentation to the Commission with a possible January date. The Commission is interested to hear information about how residents of Cambridge are able to leave and return with Section 8 vouchers.

- **Meeting topics from January 2016 mtg – to be discussed at a later date**

During the January 2016 meeting, the topic of Debt-bondage in the Cambridge immigrant community was proposed as a possible agenda item. Chair Bhan was not present to speak about this topic to further schedule action.

Commissioner Slate motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Reyes.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.