



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, November 4, 2021
Zoom Virtual Public Meeting**

Present: Commissioners Kaileigh Callender, Mercedes Evans, Olinda Marshall, Joshua Stadlan, and Stefanie Haug

City Staff: Executive Director Jennifer Mathews, Attorney Investigator Carolina Almonte, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Deputy Superintendent Fredrick Cabral

Absent: Commissioners Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Bonita Cox, Katie Stack and Sabrina Selk

Documents Used:

- May 6, 2021 Minutes

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Stadlan was acting as Chair for the meeting. Commissioner Stadlan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No one was recording the meeting and no public was present to comment.

3. Review and approval of May 2021 Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the meeting on May 6, 2021. Commissioner Callender moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Haug.

4. Executive Director's Report and Attorney Investigator Cases

Executive Director (ED) Mathews summarized the Fair Housing funding received from HUD and Partnership Grant. One part of the Partnership Grant includes an hour and a half presentation by Attorney Investigator (AI) Almonte on housing discrimination that is specific to COVID-19, and the status of tenant rights at the end of the eviction moratoria. ED Mathews updated the Commission on conferences that IA Almonte has attended for training purposes.

ED Mathews introduced Deputy Superintendent Cabral to the Commission. Deputy Supt. Cabral provided a brief history of his work for the Cambridge Police Department. He has worked for the Social Justice Family Unit, Criminal Investigation Unit, along with connecting the public to mental health services and conducting homeless outreach. The members of the Commission introduced themselves to the Deputy Supt. Cabral.

AI Almonte updated the members of the Commission on the latest cases. Since the May meeting, seven new cases opened, and six cases closed. There are two claims of discrimination in housing and four claims of discrimination in public accommodation. Half of the public accommodation complaints involve claims of discrimination based on the person's race. The other two pending cases of discrimination in public accommodation are based on the person's disability, and race/national origin, respectively. One of the pending housing discrimination complaints is based on the person's race/national origin, and source of income. The other housing discrimination case is based on the person's disability.

6. New Business

Vacancies and Interviews

Commissioners Stadlan and Stack will help ED Mathews with reviewing resumes and ranking candidates. Chair Padamsee Forbes and ED Mathews will conduct the interviews with the applicants. ED Mathews will try to have the new members start before the new year. In January, City Council will begin reviewing and approving all the new appointments to City boards and commissions.

FY22 HUD Grants

The Fair Housing assistance grant for FY22 was \$19,000. These funds go toward expenses in travel and training and the IA salary. The grant was appropriated by City Council in September. ED Mathews is planning on using some of those funds to pay for the Conciliation training for the Commission. The FY22 HUD Partnership grant was \$8000 and will go toward education and outreach activities. ED Mathews and IA Almonte are planning a Know Your Rights training with MA Attorney General on Housing Issues in January/February 2022. We will also use some of those funds to update outreach materials to create an At-a-glance bulletin of the Commission's work.

Danehy Park Day

Based on the official count, the event had fewer attendees. However, the experience of the event felt like it was well attended. People who visited the Human Rights Commission table were pleased to have warm hand-offs to the Housing Liaison and Community Development Department when appropriate referrals were needed. Both departments were located near CHRC for collaborative outreach as part of Housed IN Cambridge campaign.

Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Callender.

The next Commission meeting will be on Thursday, December 2, 2021, virtually on Zoom.