



Cambridge Human Rights Commission
Thursday, December 4, 2014

Present: Commissioners Chanta Bhan, Bonita Cox, Nadia Davila, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Kerry Gough, Zainab Lakhani, Nicholas Leydon and Sabrina Selk, and CHRC staff Nancy Schlacter, Mariah Freark and Carmen S. Negrón.

Absent: Commissioners Mercedes Evans, Kim Nghiem and Harry Reyes

Guests: Chris Burke, Police Superintendent

Documents Used:

- November minutes
- CHRC presentation dates at CLC
- Outline of lead paint video

1. Call to order

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Schlacter updated the Commission on cases and staff activities. She distributed a handout, Childhood Lead Poisoning Awareness and Discrimination Against Families with Young Children Videos, and updated Commissioners on the progress of the lead paint video. She also discussed the spring outreach presentations at the CLC, and passed around a list of possible presentation dates.

E.D. Schlacter also announced that Investigator Freark will be leaving in January 2015 because she got a new job, and Office Manager Negrón has decided to retire in January after 30 years working for the City. Commissioners congratulated both Mariah and Carmen.

4. November meeting follow-up:

- E.D. Schlacter stated that she is working on ways to reframe the conversation on the videos regarding lead paint for landlords so that it is not so negative. The focus will be to inform them of their obligations under the law, but also to let them know that deleading does not have to be expensive.
- E.D. Schlacter stated that Office Manager Negrón is still working on the Fair Housing event for April. O.M. Negrón showed the design for the t-shirts with the theme "Fair Housing Builds a Diverse Cambridge." E.D. Schlacter stated that she is still thinking about speakers, but had decided she did not necessarily want the speaker to focus on lead paint because she did not want to scare the audience of young students.

Commissioners suggested focusing on demographics of inequality and possibly inviting Dr. Kahris McLaughlin. Commissioner Davila stated that she had some ideas, and would email E.D. Schlacter.

Commissioners suggested inviting Dr. Kahris McLaughlin back to give an update about the schools at the May 2015 meeting. Commissioners voted unanimously on this issue. (Commissioners Bhan, Cox, Davila, Gonzalez-Brenes, Gough, Lakhani, Leydon, and Selk).

5. Review and approval of November Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Commissioner Davila and seconded by Commissioner Selk. November minutes were unanimously approved. (Commissioners Bhan, Cox, Davila, Gough, Lakhani, Leydon, and Selk, with Commissioner Gonzalez-Brenes abstaining).

6. New Business

- January meeting – Commissioners voted to not have a January meeting. Commissioner Bhan motioned to have the next Commission meeting on Thursday, February 5th, 2015. Commissioner Selk seconded.
- A conversation was had with Superintendent Burke regarding Cambridge Police and the protest gathering in Cambridge. Commissioner Bhan suggested having a public event similar to the one the City sponsored around the Travon Martin situation. Commissioner Bhan motioned that she reach out to Brian Corr from the Peace Commission to see if there are any relevant events planned. Commissioner Gonzalez-Brenes seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. (Commissioners Bhan, Cox, Davila, Gonzalez-Brenes, Gough, Lakhani, Leydon, and Selk).
- Commissioner Bhan will update Commissioners and staff by email.

7. February agenda

E.D. Schlacter asked Commissioners to let her know if they have anything they want on the agenda.

Commissioner Bhan motioned to adjourn meeting at 7.58 p.m.

Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.