



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • June 15, 2016

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair Frank Connelly, Gladys Friedler, and Georges Atallah, Elechi Kadete, Aboma Dirbaba, John Ratliff, and Regina Yang.

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr and Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa

Commission Members Absent: Co-Chair Larry Kim, Lijun Li, and James Eliscar.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Friedler moved to approve the May minutes and Commission Member Atallah seconded the motion. Unanimous vote reached of Commissioners in attendance at the May meeting.

Mediation and Conflict Resolution in Cambridge Public School

Presentation by Chandra Banks, CPS Conflict Mediator

The Mediation Program for Cambridge Public Schools has been in place since 2006, and the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Peer Mediation Program started in 2007. As a result, the program has trained hundreds of students and adults and provides mediation services to variety of agencies such as the MBTA police and City of Cambridge youth centers, in addition to its work in the public schools. Students are trained in mediation best practices and follow current mediation structure models. There is a no tolerance policy for bullying, harassment, or dating violence, therefore conflicts that arise from those relationship dynamics are referred to other service providers. Banks led the commission through a series of slides that explained the program's reach and capability to provide mediation services in the public schools. Banks noted that the program's effectiveness could be greater with increased funding and employee resources, which contribute to the program's ability to resolve issues in a timely manner.

Announcements

Commission members were invited to participate in the City Manager Selection Process forum at the Citywide Senior Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.