



# Cambridge Peace Commission

*A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## **Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting, September 16, 2015**

**Commission Members Present:** Co-Chairs Frank Connelly and Larry Kim, Commission Members Georges Atallah, Aboma Dirbaba, Gladys Friedler, Elechi Kadete, John Ratliff, and Regina Young

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

**Commission Members Absent:** James Eliscar, Christine Elow, Lijun Li

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Commission Members and City Staff introduced themselves and participated in an icebreaker.

### **Introduction to Staff and Commission Work**

- Co-Chair Connelly facilitated a discussion with Exec. Dir. Corr regarding events that the Commission participates and organizes each year.
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration and Remembrance
  - Commemoration of the Holocaust
- Co-Chair Connelly and Exec. Dir. Corr discussed with the Commission Members the future role of the Commission in citywide events and the prospect of being two-way ambassadors in the community.
- Co-Chair Connelly encouraged the Commission to consider City programs or departments they would want to invite to educate the Commission on their work.
  - The following programs and departments were discussed:
    - Chandra Banks, District Mediator, Cambridge Public Schools
    - CRLS STARS program
    - Community Development Department on affordable housing
    - Cambridge Community Development Demographer Cliff Cook
    - Cambridge Police Deputy Superintendent Christine Elow
    - DHSP Community Engagement Team
    - Citizens' Committee on Civic Unity
    - City Council
    - Black Lives Matter Cambridge
- Exec. Dir. Corr informed the Commission about his work with the Community Response Network and the Cambridge-Haiti Sister City Committee.
- The Commission expressed interest in collaborations with other programs and departments that are working in the field of Peace and Justice.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commission Member Atallah moved to approve the minutes and Commission Member Friedler seconded the motion. The approval was unanimous.

**Meeting Schedule, Next Steps, and Wrap Up**

- The Commission expressed interest in scheduling Deputy Superintendent Christine Elow, Police Liaison, for the October agenda.
- The Commission provided feedback about the meeting by participating in a reflective group activity led by Co-Chair Connelly.

**Documents Used**

- Agenda for September 16, 2015
- Minutes from November 26, 2013

*The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 21, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.*