

CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

December 2, 2021, Meeting

5:00 pm EDT

Location: City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom

Minutes

NOTE: We did not have a quorum until 5:35pm so the meeting agenda order went as follows:

#1, 2, 3, 5b, 5a, 6, 7, 4, 8.

1) Chairperson Janine Grillo Marra calls meeting to order.

2) Roll Call of Commissioners

- Lynn Alexis, Chief David Callahan and Rachid Moukhabir are absent.
- All other Commissioners are present in person.
- Vice Chair Chaimaa Hossaini arrived at 5:35 pm at which time there is a quorum.

3) Arrive & Settle - Brief Silence

4) Approval of Minutes from the November 4th monthly Meeting

Chief Bright MOTIONS to approve the minutes and Rev Tim Bogertman seconds; All are in favor.

5) Topics for Discussion:

a. Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr., Day - January 17, 2022

Chairperson Grillo Marra states that the City has not had any MLK celebrations in the past and it is important to recognize this holiday in some way. The Cultural Holidays and Celebrations (CH&C) subcommittee was not able to meet due to scheduling challenges and considering timing, the topic is on the agenda. She shares an idea that was presented to her as Chair:

- Invite students to reenact a MLK speech, or something similar which the students could design, with the approval from Superintendent of Schools, Dr Dianne Kelly.

The Commissioners all agree that it is a wonderful idea and we do need to recognize the holiday in some way. Dr Garcia mentions that we should consider inviting a guest speaker as well if this is feasible, and that he would be involved considering his roles with both the HRC and School Department. Kourou Pich acknowledges that although we may not have the time to do it this year, involving the community in the future would be beneficial.

ACTION: Chairperson Grillo Marra will follow up and email Dr Kelly and the Mayor, copying Dr Garcia. We will update the HRC members as the project takes shape.

b. HRC Group Norms - Shared Intentions – Agreements

Chairperson Grillo Marra shares her screen with a document including samples of shared intentions and group norms which the HRC could consider for its meetings.

She mentioned the line *What is said here, stays here* may not be appropriate since these are public meetings. Also, there was general discussion about the line *No technology use during meetings other than what is relevant to the meeting* because some members are on emergency call or use phones to access documents. Agreed to keep a line about technology however to edit it.

Other points to add:

Calling in, not calling out.

No shaming or blaming.

Avoid being judgmental, especially around biases.

The guideline will be titled *HRC Agreements* and once finalized can be read at the start of the meeting along with the Mission Statement. Discussion that these documents should be written and shared in Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic, in addition to English. Although it is ideal to state these in all three languages at each meeting, this may not be practical considering time.

ACTION: Chairperson Grillo Marra will update the document as noted and we will continue the discussion to finalize the logistics.

6) Other Business - NONE

7) Public Forum (community members have opportunity to address the HRC)

Dianna Ploss, resident of Massachusetts, addressed the Commission and raised two questions regarding the Commission’s model and purpose. Dr. Garcia, Kourou Pich, and Vice Chair Hossaini attempted to respond by describing the role of the HRC in protecting the rights of all residents. A further discussion ensued and veered off topic to the point where Chairperson Grillo Marra ruled that the conduct was out of order. The meeting was suspended. For the safety of all, the Police were summoned.

8) Adjournment

Rev Tim Bogertman MOTIONS to adjourn, Vice Chair Hossaini seconds; All are in favor.

Meeting adjourned. We will reconvene on January 6th for the next monthly meeting.