

**CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**5:00 pm Eastern Time**

**Location: City Council Chambers or via Zoom**

**Monthly Meeting – May 2, 2024**

**1) Call Meeting to Order**

**2) Roll Call of Commissioners**

- Somaya Laroussi

- Dr. Lorenzo Garcia

- Kourou Pich

- Chief Chris Bright

- Chair Chaimaa Hossaini

**3) Land Acknowledgment**

**4) Commission reads mission statement**

**5) Approval of Minutes from the April 4th Monthly Meeting**

- Commissioner Laroussi motions to approve, Dr. Garcia seconds, all are in favor

**5) Monthly acknowledgements**

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Appreciation month
- May 1st is International Laborers' Day (Provided by Commissioner Laroussi)
- May 2nd is the National Day of Prayer
- May 4th is International Firefighters' Day
- May 5th is Cinco de Mayo
- May 8th through 9th is the Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation for those who lost their lives in World War II
- May 12th is Mother's Day
- May 12th to 19th is the Taiwanese American Heritage week
- May 18th is National Armed Forces Day
- May 22nd is International Day of Biological Diversity
- Declaration of Baab
- May 22nd is also Memorial Day
- Event for Memorial Day on May 27<sup>th</sup>, find on Revere website (Provided by Director Morabito)
- May 27th to May 29th it's going to be the Ascension of Bahallah

**6) Outlook for the Circle training with Strong Oak**

- **Date will be June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **A) Expectations + Personal and Group goals**

- **Laroussi:** met strong Oak before at the November monthly meeting; excited to learn more about the circle practice and how we can incorporate that into the future meetings
- **Dr. Garcia:** Thinks the training will bring the commission together; knowing Strong Oak, they have a great track record of creating a climate that will allow the commissioners to really get to know each other better and work around some differences, which is normal to have.
- **Chair Hossaini:** Personal expectations: To learn how to converse and talk about difficult concepts, such as IPD, amongst other controversial topics, within the commission and other aspects outside city hall. Emphasizes that the commission has meetings that are more structured that way, it allows for more community engagement.
- **Pich:** Has no expectations and is excited for the training to happen. Hopes that this will give the commission another tool to engage the community at large.
- **Chief Bright:** Echoes what some of the comments from my fellow Commissioners had said. Does not have any huge expectations other than to remain open and listen. Has had the opportunity to participate in a couple of circles.
- **Director Morabito:** Expectations are for each one of the commissioners to just take all the information and eventually apply it to the meetings as the commission moves forward.

#### **B) What subjects do people want the circle to focus on?**

- **Chair Hossaini:** How do we invite people who don't want to be here, as in, who don't want our commission to exist, and how can we coexist with them and have a meaningful conversation?
- **Pich:** Clarifies that the training is different and focuses on teaching the commission and giving the commission the tools to engage with the community differently. We typically are in the mainstream classroom approach, but the circle practice is different; it acts as an invitation to engage in community, coexist, accept our differences, and create an equitable community. In total, circle training is a tool that Strong Oak going to teach us how to do it and emphasizing that circle practice is not the only one practice that the commission emphasizing commission that she has been using circle practice to educate a practice to educate and discuss different topics.
- **Dr. Garcia:** I understands where Commissioner Pich is coming from, like that one of the tenants of the circle practice is to teach people how to overcome tension and teaching or covering strategies in terms of how to deal with conflict and things like that we live in a city where people have preconceptions they have um different views which we always want people to have different views on things and there's tension in our community, whatever the issue may be. His outlook is that the circle training will provide us with some tools, some strategies for de-escalation

situations and give us some ideas in terms of how we can engage people even if they don't like us.

- Laroussi: Has not gone to a circle outside the November monthly meeting that was done last year that was led by Strong Oak. The only other experience she had with that was something similar was invited to a healing circle and is excited to hear more about the history of doing these types of circles and understanding.
- Pich: Uses circle in many forms for many different things such as reconciliation and restorative justice, but can be used for more uplifting things like organizing celebrations

### C) Directions we can take after the training

- Laroussi: It seems that we were coming to a realization that a lot of us have a lot of different ideas about what we what we see as like the future of the HRC and that led us to talk about potentially having some sort of a plan of what we want to do for a year and what is our mission for a year. It is important after the circle training that we implement it amongst ourselves so that we get on the same page at least about our more like immediate goals before we bring it to the public.
- Chair Hossaini: Agrees with Commissioner Laroussi, understands and is open to newer ways of doing things. Is really excited to go through that journey with everyone um and I think everyone else could say the same thing about each other; we get to see where our weaknesses are where our strengths are what we should work on how can we use that training to the utmost extent um and how we could plan for our you know the upcoming year using the things that we learn from that meeting.
- Laroussi: Is really interested to see once we bring it back here and do it amongst ourselves how it ends up looking fitting into our culture if that makes sense before we bring it to the public.
- All details pertaining to the training is still a work of progress at the time of the meeting. All that there is available is the dates (6/13-6/14) and time (9-5).
- All details pertaining to the REI training in city hall was provided via email to all revere.org users
  - For those attending this training, take notes and share that amongst the commission and the community when we meet up again in August.
  - Chair Hossaini suggested that if anyone in the community has questions regarding the REI training, their emails should be set up on the HRC website as point-persons for that specific training.

## 7) Open Forum

### A) Audience

### B) Commissioners

- **Pride month starts June 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a pride flag raising from 4-5pm in front of City Hall on June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- **Juneteenth + Pride Month – Potentially put out statements for both and have a small video listing out all the events for the month of June**
  - **June 18<sup>th</sup>, flag raising for Juneteenth, Dr. Garcia will be guest speaker at the event**
  - Sunday June 23rd from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. there will be a Revere Beach Pride Celebration
  - **School Events (Provided by Dr. Garcia):**
    - **Juneteenth: RHS will head off to the cemetery near Rumney Marsh, where there are seven to fourteen black enslaved slaves buried in that Cemetery and will return to the Learning Commons back at the high school.**
    - Commissioners can join if they are able to
    - Information will be sent so that the information will be on the HRC website
- Pich: Suggests if the commission can broadcast information and events for each month and any resources that we can provide.
- Director Morabito: Recalled suggesting a while back for any of the commissioners are interested in doing a talking segment on Revere TV for just “down to earth, one-on-one” conversation and just let the people of Revere get to know the commission as people and not as commissioners.
- Dr. Garcia: Agrees with Director Morabito, brings up all the cooking segments he participates in with Revere TV, suggests for the commission to do something similar.
- Chair Hossaini: Suggests utilizing the working groups on which group works on which projects.
- Pich: Suggests focusing on categories of people not spotlighted, such as Southeast Asians. We can also use Revere TV to raise awareness and to bring awareness to such communities.
- Director Morabito: Thinks that's a great idea, especially since there is a Greek population in Revere.
- Chair Hossaini: All these ideas will be recorded in minutes and minutes but listed in a separate document that will be shared with everyone in the commission.

## 10) Adjournment

- **Commissioner Pich motions to adjourn, and Commissioner Laroussi seconds, all in favor. The meeting is adjourned.**