**CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**5:00 pm Eastern Time**

**Location: City Council Chambers**

**Monthly Meeting – September 4th, 2025**

**1) Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair **Chaimaa Hossaini** at the start of the fiscal year.

**2) Roll Call of Current Commissioners**

* Dr. Lorenco Garcia
* Commissioner Kourou Pich
* Commissioner Albert Tecci (new member)
* Commissioner Sheila Johnson (new member)
* DEI Director Steve Morabito
* Chair Chaimaa Hossaini

**3) Read Mission Statement and Vision**

* The Commission read its mission statement together, reaffirming its commitment to dignity, fairness, and justice for all, especially vulnerable and marginalized residents.
* Land acknowledgment recognized the Pawtucket people as original stewards of the land.

**4) Land Acknowledgment**

* Land acknowledgment recognized the Pawtucket people as original stewards of the land.

**5) Approval of Minutes from the May 1st Monthly Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Tecci, all are in favor.

**6) Monthly acknowledgements and Upcoming Events**

The Commission highlighted several important dates and celebrations in September:

* **Labor Day** (Sept 1)
* **Hispanic Heritage Month** (Sept 15 – Oct 15) – including Revere’s first city-hosted event on **Sept 25, 4:30–7pm at City Hall**
* **International Day of Democracy** (Sept 15)
* **Stepfamily Day** (Sept 16)
* **Patriot Day / National Day of Remembrance** (Sept 11)
* **Constitution/Citizenship Day** (Sept 17)
* **Shirley Avenue Cultural Festival** (Sept 20, Sandler Square, 1–4pm)
* **World Peace Day** (Sept 21)
* **Rosh Hashanah** (Sept 22–24, sundown to nightfall)
* **European Languages Day** (Sept 26)
* **World Tourism Day** (Sept 27)

Chair Hossaini emphasized the importance of adding more cultural and faith-based holidays to the annual calendar so that all communities feel represented.

**7) Introduction of New Members**

* **Albert Tetchy** introduced himself, noting he has lived in Revere for 44 years and has witnessed many changes. He expressed excitement to help shape the city’s future.
* **Sheila Johnson** introduced herself, sharing that she has lived in Revere for 25+ years and wants to ensure that residents’ voices are heard and that meaningful community improvements are made.

8) Mass Cultural Council Grant

Director **Steve Morabito** reviewed details of the grant:

* Applications opened Sept 2 and close Oct 16.
* An informational session will be held virtually on Sept 9.
* Revere now has a **full-time grant writer** available to assist.

A) Potential Projects We Can Plan For

* **Listening and Learning Tour**: Visiting different wards and holding community circles to hear residents’ concerns, priorities, and ideas.
* **Film & Dialogue Nights**: Screening documentaries on immigration, civil rights, Black history, LGBTQ+ rights, or local history, followed by community conversations.
* **Public Art Installations**: Commissioning local artists for temporary displays on justice, unity, and diversity.
* **Youth Engagement**: Hosting poster or essay contests for middle and high school students on “What Human Rights Mean to Me.”
* **Health & Safety Education**: Providing workshops for middle school students on wellness, preventing risky behaviors, and community resources.
* **Storytelling Nights**: Creating spaces for immigrant and resident success stories, highlighting contributions to Revere’s community and economy.
* **Know Your Rights Sessions**: Workshops on immigration rights and housing justice, potentially in partnership with Councilor Jaramillo and legal experts.
	+ Key considerations:
		- The need to balance **impactful programming with realistic volunteer capacity**.
		- Potential to merge ideas (e.g., film screenings paired with listening sessions or art exhibitions paired with open forums).
		- Structuring events so the Commission holds **1–2 major community events per year** rather than spreading resources thin.
		- Accessibility emphasized: providing **childcare** during events, addressing **transportation barriers** with passes/vouchers or services like RC Link.

9) Diversifying Demographic Considerations

* Commissioners stressed the value of **collecting diverse demographic data** to guide the Commission’s work.
* Beyond numbers, members highlighted the importance of **“street data”** – the lived experiences, stories, and qualitative insights that reflect what residents feel daily.
* Such data can reveal community strengths, gaps in resources, and pressing needs, especially for immigrant families, communities of color, and marginalized groups.
* Storytelling was identified as a central tool for gathering this type of information, ensuring the Commission grounds its initiatives in authentic community voices.

10) Brainstorming Other Ways for Community Members to Submit Intakes to the HRC

Next Steps:

* Commissioners will continue refining project ideas before the grant deadline.
* Director Morabito will coordinate with the city’s grant writer to shape proposals.
* Ensure Rosh Hashanah and other underrepresented cultural/faith holidays are included in next year’s community calendar.
* Explore childcare and transportation support to make events more inclusive.
* Develop approaches for collecting **qualitative demographic data** and integrating community voices into planning.

**11) Open Forum**

* **Molly McGee** was recognized for her continued contributions to civic and community initiatives.
* **Chief Bright** was acknowledged for his leadership and collaboration with the Commission on issues of public safety and equity.

**12) Adjourned**

Commissioner Pich motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Garcia seconds, all are in favor. The meeting is adjourned