**CITY OF REVERE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**5:00 pm Eastern Time**

**Location: City Council Chambers**

**Monthly Meeting – October 2nd, 2025**

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hossaini.

### **2. Roll Call**

### Chair Chaimaa Hossaini

### Commissioner Kourou Pich

### Commissioner Sheila Johnson

### Commissioner Albert Tecci

### Director Steve Morabito.

### **2. Mission Statement & Land Acknowledgement**

* The Commission reaffirmed its mission to promote and protect human and civil rights for all residents of Revere, especially marginalized communities.
* A land acknowledgement was read honoring the **Pawtucket people**, with an invitation for Indigenous and underrepresented communities to take part in future meetings.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

* Motion made by Commissioner Tecci and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2025 meeting.
* All are in favor, motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Monthly Acknowledgements & Upcoming Events (October)**

The Commission recognized October observances, including:

* Filipino American History Month, Italian American Heritage & Culture Month, LGBTQ History Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, Bullying Prevention Month, National Work and Family Month.
* International Day of Nonviolence (Oct 2)
* German American Heritage Day (Oct 6)
* Mobile City Hall at Harry Della Russo Stadium (Oct 8, 4–6 PM)
* World Mental Health Day (Oct 10)
* National Coming Out Day (Oct 11)
* Romany Marsh Burial Ground Twilight Tour (Oct 11, 7–8:30 PM)
* Indigenous Peoples’ Day (Oct 13)
* Boss’s Day (Oct 16)
* International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct 17)
* Spirit Day (Oct 17)
* Revere History Museum Open Hours (Oct 18, 2–5 PM)
* Birth of the Báb in Shiraz (Oct 20)
* International Stuttering Awareness Day (Oct 22)
* “Train on the Beach” History Event (Oct 22, 6–8 PM)
* Seascapes & Landscapes Photography Exhibit (Oct 23, 7–9 PM, Revere Arts Community & History Museum)
* Halloween (Oct 31)
* Dashain Festival (Nepalese holiday, Sept 22–Oct 2)

Commissioners encouraged community members to share additional events for inclusion on the city calendar.

### **3. Grants Update**

* Chair Hossaini provided an update on collaboration with Commissioners Pich and Vice Chair Baptiste and the grant writer at Revere City Hall.
* Local River Cultural Council grant: focus on community listening tour and school events.
* Massachusetts Cultural Council grant: larger budget, includes celebrations such as International Women’s Day; allows more flexibility due to higher funding. (Apparently there is no separate larger grant)
* Full transparency shared on budget allocations and breakdown for vendors, speakers, and marketing.
* Commissioners Pich and Tecci expressed appreciation for leadership and collaboration on the proposal.

### **4. Collaboration with Other Commissions**

* Commissioner Johnson proposed exploring joint initiatives with other local human rights commissions and city boards (e.g., Housing Authority).
* Chair Hossaini and Commissioner Pich emphasized benefits of shared resources, joint events, and broadening community engagement.
* Senior centers identified as key starting points for community outreach and input.

### **5. Indigenous People’s Day Discussion**

* Chair Hossaini opened discussion on Indigenous People’s Day, October 13, emphasizing the importance of education and recognition of the day without erasing other cultural celebrations.
* Commissioner Johnson suggested collaborating to find common ground, integrating different cultural celebrations respectfully.
* Commissioner Pitch and Director Morabito emphasized honoring indigenous history, acknowledging colonization, and providing accurate historical context while respecting Italian-American heritage.
* Commissioner Tecci and Commissioner Hossaini highlighted the importance of educating the community about both indigenous history and the historical persecution of Italian-Americans, including the Columbus Day Massacre of 11 Sicilian individuals.
* Discussion on outreach:
  + Senior citizen centers and community hubs suggested as primary engagement points.
  + Social media and online polls are considered as complementary tools for community input.
  + Emphasis on respectful dialogue and inclusion of voices from all sides.
* Consensus: thoughtful, historical, and respectful community conversations are necessary; the commission will continue discussions through listening tours and events.

### **6. Student Involvement**

* Chair Hossaini introduced a proposal to create pathways for students to be involved with the Human Rights Commission.
* Commissioners supported engagement with Revere Public High School students, possibly through a student advisory council or liaison role.
* Discussion points:
  + Students under 18 cannot vote but may attend meetings and voice opinions.
  + Quarterly meetings with student leaders suggested.
  + Director Morabito recommended creating a Youth Liaison role; collaboration with civic teachers to form a student advisory board to identify key issues.
* Action item: Chair Hossaini to contact Dr. Garcia to determine existing student groups and explore creation of a student human rights advisory group.

### **7. Open Forum – Collaboration Opportunities**

* Commissioners go back to Commissioner Johnson’s suggestions about other commissions
* Commissioners discussed partnering with other commissions and boards (Arts and Culture, Housing Authority, Environmental, Senior Council) to enhance outreach and resource sharing.
* Emphasis placed on leveraging events funded through grants to invite other organizations and commissions to engage with the community.
* Chair Hossaini highlighted the importance of building long-term relationships with senior centers and other community organizations.

### **8. Adjournment**

* Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Tecci, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and approved unanimously.
* Meeting adjourned.