

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
Mission Statement**

“The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness.”

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
West Hartford Town Hall
5:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 23, 2020
WebEx**

DRAFT Minutes

Attendance

Krishna Adhikari	Present
Pramod Pradhan, Administrative Liaison	Present
Sarah Raskin, Co-Chair	Present
Barry Walters, Co-Chair	Present
Adrienne Billings-Smith	Present
Dawn Ennis	Present
Brian Greenleaf, Secretary	Absent

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Sarah Raskin.

1. Sarah Raskin read a prepared statement laying out specific requirements for an online meeting due to COVID-19.
- 2 The Commissioners discussed potential changes to suggest regarding the organization of the West Hartford Police Department. It was agreed that we need information from the Chief of Police about current practices and changes already proposed. It was agreed that Barry Walters would reach out to Chief Riddick and Town Manager Hart to request a meeting. One specific suggestion discussed was having the Human Rights Commission serve in the review process for the creation of a Citizen’s Review Board.
2. The Commissioners discussed potential changes to suggest regarding the West Hatford Public Schools. It was agreed that we need information from the Superintendent of Schools on current practices and changes already proposed. It was agreed that Sarah Raskin would reach out to Superintendent Moore to request a meeting. In particular we discussed the recommendation that armed School Resource Officers be removed from the schools and the need for evidence-based data on their effectiveness and harms.
3. Adrienne Billings-Smith stressed the need to make clear that the intent of our suggestions is the urgency that Black community members be recognized, supported and risks be eliminated.

The meeting was adjourned by Barry Walters at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah A. Raskin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' and 'R'.

Sarah Raskin
July 27, 2020