

## **WEST HARTFORD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Minutes of January 5, 2022, Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Co-Chair Esam Boraey

### **Attendance:**

Esam Boraey, Co-Chair (EB) was present  
Dawn Ennis, Co-Chair (DE) was present  
Aurora Melita, Secretary (AM) was present  
Ted Mancini (TM) was present  
Sarah Raskin (SR) Absent  
Eric Schoenberg (ES) was present  
Pramod Pradhan, Liaison and Facilitator (PP) was present  
Tekisha Dwan Everette (TDE) Absent, due to family business  
Kristin Sowell (KS) was present

### **Minutes:**

EB made a motion to accept the December 2021 meeting minutes, EB moved, Seconded by KS, passed unanimously by voice vote

EB took a moment of silence for the upcoming anniversary of the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Shared that the Town is holding a bipartisan vigil on the town green at 5pm tomorrow, January 6, 2022, and all are welcomed.

EB raised the SRO updated and asked DE to update. DE shared that now that we have heard from BOE we may want to seek out more local West Hartford voices on SROs similar to what TM has suggested regarding potential speaks aimed to gather data and facts. EB, Suggested that we may hear from a professor or someone in academia. ES, Shared that one of our fellow Commissioners, SR is just that as a Neuropsychologist studying the topic and said that she shared via email data.

EB, Posed question to Committee if we need to invite speakers to provide an education around School Resource Officers (SRO) in West Hartford. TM, If you do that you should start with Police Chief and local SROs. DE, While some of us weren't here when the Chief of Police addressed the commission I would suggest a Deputy Chief, or someone else in the department just because it was difficult to book. For the sake of time maybe we should consider a lower ranking officer. ES, would suggest a school phycologist and SRO or officer who can really give us an overview of what's happening. DE and TM will be Co-Chair of a Subcommittee to research poetical speakers on SROs to share with commissioner for consideration

EB, Posed question to Committee if we need to invite speakers to provide an education around Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in West Hartford. DE referred to an email she shared earlier with commission that if there was a credible source with opposing view on SEL we heard in last meeting we would welcome to learn more. TM shared that he would ask around and share with the commission if he knows of anyone.

EB, shared that the West Hartford Parent Community EDI Project reached out to him to see if HRC would be willing to support them in a partnership. DE shared that HRC would sponsor and potential host a webinar they are putting together, Understanding Diverse Gender Identities: Insights from Pediatric Medical Experts. EB made motion for HRC to sponsor the event, ES second, all in favor by voice vote with

1 abstention TM, DE asked for motion for her to moderate event, EB made motion to nominate DE to moderate event, KS seconded, all in favor passed by voice vote

SR: January Honor Roll Notices update. SR was absent today but sent an email update which EB shared. Update from SR, via email, is that the honor roll for nominations is ready to and that she can start to post on social media. The town will post to their website and sent out. The Mayor suggested that due to COVID we give people until February 15, 2022 to submit suggestions, asking for names and short description.

TM: Crime Petition Update. TM shared that their first meeting is tonight so I will have more of an update for everyone at next meeting.

DE: Men Working Construction Signs Update: DE shared that she that when she was driving on Brewster Rd, she saw signs that included the term, Men at work. Being that the HRC worked to address excluding these types of signs DE reached out to Town Manager regarding men at work signs being used in town. The department responded and shared that they are not aware of any contractors hired directly by the town using any such signs and we will continue to use language in our contracts prohibiting use of these signs. The company in question was hired by CT Natural Gas to perform work on Brewster Rd. We notified the contractor of the signage issue on December 8, 2021, upon receipt of this email and they committed to ordering proper signage to replace former signage once received. The Department share their thanks for sharing this update.

EB: Asked commission on location for next meeting, virtual or in-person. Majority voted for the next meeting to be virtual.

EB shared that the next meeting date of the HRC will be Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7:00pm

EB made motion to adjourn, moved by ES and KS seconded, passed.