

## **WEST HARTFORD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Minutes of February 2, 2022 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Co-Chair Dawn Ennis

### **Attendance:**

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

### **Minutes:**

DE, we will not be voting on January minutes due to technical difficulties and minutes will be distributed the month of February and voted on in March

DE will meet again in March virtually, will include question again on March agenda to see if we should meet in person in April

PP asked if once we do start to meet in person would you agree to meet at the library instead of meeting at Elmwood Center. HRC agreed that if the option is to meet at Elmwood we are happy to meet at the Library. If for some reason the town hall was available to use HRC would prefer to use the Town Hall. HRC prefers Town Hall if reasonably possible if not then Library

ES shared update on availability of radon testing kits. Radon is a naturally occurring gas where there is no way to sense or smell. It is an optional home test which means testing kits are not always available for free to residents or renters. They are available West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District but there are limited numbers I recommend you call before you show up to pick up your free kit, 860 561 7900  
Location to pick up: 580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100, Bloomfield CT 06002

HRC Member TM: to share an update on Crime Petition: said they are working to draft a letter to the legislature as to parts they support and oppose but doesn't look to come up to a vote in the town council. Right now, it is still in committee. TM shared that the intent of the bill was to try to get a vote on a crime bill this session.

Members asked what original town motion was, TM shared he would research for next meeting  
DE: asked that TM to share update via email before March meeting, if possible, TM agreed

DE: Lessons we can learn from our MLK Day email discussion – Would like us as a commission to be more thoughtful with the schedule for statements.

ES: Lets create a list of days we would want to a statement out. Two months before that day we can put it on the agenda for reminders and form a statement

SR: Supports idea of putting together a list of dates we can all agree that we can support

TDE: I agree, I think there is a lot of important things we will miss if we don't put in time and planning into this

HRC will start a new google doc of dates for a list

TM: agree to a google doc or written for dates but we should have a public discussion in a meeting on dates if we are going to put out a statement, etc

SR: started google doc

AM: To put Google Doc Dates for discussion on agenda for March

HRC Member TM: shared an update on SRO speaker outreach:

TM: said he has an SRO from Conor who is able to speak at next meeting.

TM: Put forward motion to table this and that we don't move forward, ES seconded, motion passed, 5 Yes, 0 No and 1 abstained

SR: asked the commission if someone wanted to be a liaison to the MLK Committee

Commission decided to put this on the agenda for next month

TDE: expressed interest, SR will connect TDE to committee learn more information and we will discuss who from the HRC wants to be that liaison next meeting

HRC Co-Chair DE: shared raised concerns from Debra Cohen, Chair Wethersfield HRC on immigration matters: wanted to talk about refugees and antisemitism

SR: shared she would support what the statewide network is supporting and that in the past we have had people in our communities facing deportation issues and have asked us for help

DE: Planning to get more information as to where webinar is and email the commission an update. HRC will then decide if they want to put it on the March agenda for discussion

HRC Co-Chair DE: to share how Feb. 1st Webinar, Understanding Diverse Gender Identities: Insights from Pediatric Medical Experts.

Can watch the full Webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llpP3t0warE>

DE: announced next meeting date. Wednesday March 2, 2022 7:00pm

DE asked for motion to adjourn, TDE made motion, AM seconded, all in favor, no objection, meeting adjourned