



**Cambridge Human Rights Commission**  
**Thursday, May 7, 2015**

Present: Commissioners Kim Nghiem, Mercedes Evans, Nadia Davila, Kerry Gough, Harry Reyes, Nicholas Leydon, Zainab Lakhani, and CHRC staff Nancy Schlacter and Sabrina Acloque

Absent: Chair Chanta Bhan, Commissioners Sabrina Selk, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Bonita Cox

Documents Used:

- April Minutes
- Fair Housing Contest Materials

**1. Call to order**

Vice Chair/Commissioner Reyes called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**3. Review and Approval of April Minutes**

ED Schlacter and Commissioner Reyes discussed edits made to the March minutes to more accurately reflect his statements at that meeting. ED Schlacter noted that the requested change had been made and the March minutes posted online. Commissioner Mercedes Evans moved to accept the April minutes. Commissioner Kerry Gough seconded the motion.

**4. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Schlacter updated the Commission on cases and staff activities. New Commissioners will be trained on reviewing case determinations with more experienced Commissioners.

**5. April meeting follow-up:**

- **“Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline” event discussion**  
Commissioner Davila reported on the “Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline” event she attended and on the benefits of using restorative justice practices in the schools and penal system.
- **Update on the Status of the Fair Housing Bills Pending in the State Legislature**  
The discussion of the Commission’s role in supporting these bills was postponed because Commissioners Bhan, Gonzalez-Brenes, Selk, and Cox, who were tasked with finding out more information about these bills, were absent.
- **Conciliation Training at the Community Dispute Settlement Center in October, 2015**  
The following Commissioners stated that they are available for a conciliation training at the Community Dispute Settlement Center on October 24, 2015: Commissioners Reyes, Lakhani, Gough and Leydon. Commissioners Evans, Davila and Nghiem stated that they may be available and will confirm with E.D. Schlacter at a later date. E.D. Schlacter stated that she would make the training available to Boston Fair Housing Commissioners if there are any spots available. E.D. Schlacter stated that the training is expected

to take at least six hours, but that she would follow up to confirm the time and duration of the training with the Commissioners.

- **The Commission's Role in the "Black Lives Matter" effort**

Commissioner Davila stated that she would follow up with the Black Lives Matter contact person to find out how the group would like the Commission to assist it in its efforts. Commissioner Davila stated that she thinks that Black Lives Matter is hosting a job fair for Black men of color on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Danger Awesome. Commissioner Davila also stated that Black Lives Matter is hosting a housing workshop in the fall. The extent and nature of the Commission's support for Black Lives Matter still remains to be discussed and evaluated after Commissioner Davila contacts the group's organizer.

## **6. New Business**

Commissioner Gough suggested having Commission meetings during the summer (July and August) in order to capitalize on the group's momentum. Commissioner Reyes motioned to move the July Commission meeting to Thursday, July 9, 2015 to accommodate Commissioners' 4<sup>th</sup> of July plans. In the event of no quorum, Commissioners will focus on editing and updating outreach materials. Commissioner Nghiem seconded the motion. The August Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2015. Attorney Investigator Acloque is planning a Determination Review Training with the help of Commissioners Gonzalez-Brenes and Evans. The training is currently scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2015 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Attorney Investigator Acloque will follow up with more information to all Commissioners who are interested in attending the training.

## **7. Outreach Subcommittee for Commission's annual Fair Housing Ceremony**

- E.D. Schlacter informed the Commissioners about an opportunity to assist Craig Smith, a librarian from the Cambridge Public Library, in his efforts to reach out to groups that assist immigrants in order to improve local library services. Commissioner Reyes suggested using the library as a space to promote and collect posters for the Commission's annual fair housing poster contest.

## **8. Other Matters Discussed**

- The Commission will be staffing a table at the River Fest on Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Lakhani stated that her classroom presentation went well.
- The Commissioners discussed ways to improve and modernize the outreach materials shared with students in the classroom presentations. Commissioner Leydon offered to review and edit the outreach materials and the fair housing contest materials on the Google drive. Commissioner Reyes agreed to review and edit these materials as well. More ideas on how to improve the Commission's outreach materials will be discussed during the July and August meetings.
- Commissioner Nghiem informed the Commission that she spoke with a colleague, Alice LoCicero, who is very interested in hosting an event to remember the Boston Marathon Bombing and to unite all those affected by it. Commissioner Nghiem stated that she invited Ms. LoCicero to speak at the June meeting regarding ways the Commission can show support for such an event. Commissioner Gough moved to invite Ms. LoCicero to the June meeting. Commissioners Reyes and Leydon seconded the motion.

## **9. Agenda for June**

- Alice LoCicero will speak about her interest in having an event to bring together everyone affected by the Boston Marathon Bombing. The Commission will explore ways in which it can support this event.
- Continued discussion on improving the Commission's outreach and poster contest materials.

Commissioner Reyes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Lakhani and Evans.

**Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.**