



Cambridge Peace Commission

A Department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Minutes of the Peace Commission Meeting • November 16, 2016

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair Frank Connelly, Georges Atallah, Elechi Kadete, Aboma Dirbaba, John Ratliff, and Gladys Friedler.

City Staff Present: Executive Director Brian Corr, Administrative Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Dep. Supt. Christine Elow.

Commission Members Absent: Co-Chair Larry Kim, James Eliscar, Lijun Li, and Regina Yang.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Friedler moved to approve the October minutes and Commission Member Ratliff seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Open Discussion of Post-Election Sentiments

- Executive Director Corr explained the city's efforts in reaffirming its commitment to being Sanctuary City. New City Manager Louis DePasquale and Mayor Simmons released a joint statement on the reaffirmation. This was a response to the President-Elect's rhetoric regarding immigrants and threats of denying federal funding to cities that identified themselves as a Sanctuary City.
- Commission Member Ratliff briefly summarized his observations of a national movement of sanctuary cities in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and Somerville, as well as the statement from the New York Governor that New York State is a "Safe Haven State."
- Commission Member Atallah expressed concerns about how the President-Elect would change the face of the planet through his foreign policy.
- Commission Member Ratliff added his support for Senator Warren and Senator Sanders for their proclamations to support the leadership when they do positive work, and committed themselves to reject the negative.
- Executive Director Corr mentioned that CRLS students were planning on a peaceful protest of the President-Elect.
- A variety of questions was asked by Commission members such as, "How can we get through this? What can we do to get through this? How can we come together?"
- Executive Director Corr also spoke about the "three faces of power" as a way to think about the challenges ahead:
 - Immediate action on issues and causes
 - Training and building infrastructure for longer-term work
 - Shifting worldviews and understanding

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Peace Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 14, at 51 Inman St. in the Second Floor Conference Room.