

**Town of Hamden
Human Rights and Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday June 10th, 2021
7:00 pm
Via Zoom/ Electronically**

To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/o1klAfNew7qBYWVuW-l5oYDXm10qAQWJpI9c7YnsROIwSu2ZSUCww7hT9mU8BGm6.vodOeGA91j41v5zz>

**** If prompted for a password, enter: y1rXSx\$^**

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Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Cardwell called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
- 2. Attendance**
 - a. In Attendance:** Sean Cardwell, Chairman; Ganiyu Mimiko; Tracy Bowens; Rabbi Herbert Brockman; Judith Goldberg; Mike Thompson
 - b. Also In Attendance:** Jay Tulin, Farmington HRR Chairman; Professor Brian Stiltner; CTHRP
 - c. Absent:** Weruche George; Martha Walker
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes:** May 13th
 - a. Please note that in the agenda, “April 8th”, was incorrectly printed, instead of “May 13th.” Chairman Cardwell requested one correction/clarification. On page 2, the mayor has been invited to the forum, but Chairman Cardwell will be issuing the official welcome. Mr. Bowens then made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Mimiko. All were in favor.
- 4. Correspondence**
 - a. The clerk notified the commission that meeting restrictions have officially been lifted and in-person meetings can resume being held at the Hamden Government Center. The mask mandate, however, is still in effect, if meeting in the building.
 - b. The clerk issued a reminder that Chairman Cardwell, Mr. Bowens, and Ms. Harris were up for reappointment through 4/30/24. If they have not already done so, they must take the oath with the Town Clerk, Ms. Morrison at their earliest convenience. (**Update:** After this meeting took place, the commission was made aware of Ms. Harris’ passing in 2020. Our sincerest condolences to her family and friends. Her presence will be sorely missed.)
- 5. Guest Speakers**
 - a. Professor Brian Stiltner of CT Human Rights Partnership
 - i. There was some discussion regarding the Zoom logistics for the upcoming forum, particularly in regards to the breakout rooms. Ideally, there will be 4-5 breakout

rooms, each containing 4-6 commissioners. The same topic will be discussed in each room. Professor Stiltner created a meeting preregistration form, which will be sent to all potential participants.

b. Mr. Jay Tulin of Farmington Human Rights Commission

- i.** Mr. Tulin reached out to Judge Washington of the Windsor commission, to see if any other commissioners were interested in participating in the forum. He is awaiting a response. Chairman Cardwell clarified that he did not receive a copy of the Windsor commission's charter. He also agreed to follow up with Mr. Tulin, in regards to the charters, at a later time.

6. Old Business

a. Connecticut Human Rights Commission Forum: Update & Discussion

- i.** About 25 individuals will be participating in the forum. Chairman Cardwell requested that Mr. Thompson edit/manipulate the list of participants. After discussing each item, the following tentative agenda was crafted:

Agenda

- 1.** Welcome (5 min)
- 2.** Introductions of Towns and Commissioners (20-25 min)
 - a.** How the commission operates
 - b.** History of the commission
 - c.** What each commission hopes to learn as a result of the forum
- 3.** Introduce Breakout Rooms (30 min)
 - a.** Topics
 - i.** Authority of Commissions
 - ii.** Missions and Goals of Commissions
 - iii.** Community Engagement and Awareness
 - 1.** What have you done in your community?
 - a.** Biggest success?
 - b.** Biggest obstacles?
 - 2.** What would you like to do?
 - iv.** Group Discussion of Action Items
 - 1.** Future collaborative opportunities
- 4.** Regroup/Share (15 min)
- 5.** Brief Verbal Evaluation of Meeting and Closing Remarks: Professor Brian Stiltner and Mr. Glenn Mitoma of CT Human Rights Partnership (10 min)
 - a.** Key message to be reinforced: The need for an ongoing collaborative effort with CT Human Rights and Relations Commissions

Chairman Cardwell requested that Ms. Goldberg create the official agenda for distribution.

- ii.** General ideas/comments: N/A

b. Monthly Movie Series: Discuss June Showing

- i.** As Ms. George was unable to attend the meeting, she will update the commission at the next meeting, which will take place on September 9th, 2021.

c. Covid-19: Update on Vaccines

- i. Mr. Bowens noted that vaccination numbers are trailing off, as a higher percentage of the population has already been vaccinated. Otherwise, not much discussion took place.

7. New Business

a. Charter Discussion: N/A

b. Guest Speaker: September Selection

- i. Several commissioners suggested someone who is involved in the LGBTQ and/or gender rights community. It was also suggested that someone involved with legislative proposals regarding the use of Native American mascots and team names, speak to the commission.

c. Community Assistance: N/A

8. Thoughts and Ideas

- a. Chairman Cardwell briefly recapped what needs to be accomplished prior to the forum:
 - i. Obtain final charter information
 - ii. Preregistration from all participants needs to be completed
 - iii. Finalize agenda and distribute it

9. Executive Session (If Required): N/A

10. Adjournment: At 7:52 pm, Mr. Bowens made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Mimiko. All were in favor.

***Please note the next HRRC meeting will take place on Thursday, September 9th, 2021.**

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk