

**Town of Hamden  
Human Rights and Relations Commission  
Minutes of a Special Meeting  
Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
7:00 pm**

**\*To view the recording, please click the following link and observe the instructions when/if prompted:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/jnvUw6sV2IWqpoTiggyFWs-AX3mrUWuZ3YEKns\\_tQG72HoKc6qYp545HZjRnZYOR.fUviqQOCOLg9jSgJ](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/jnvUw6sV2IWqpoTiggyFWs-AX3mrUWuZ3YEKns_tQG72HoKc6qYp545HZjRnZYOR.fUviqQOCOLg9jSgJ)

**\*\*If prompted for a password, enter:** jx2v+g#W

**\*\*\*If you are reviewing a print copy of these minutes and wish to view the meeting recording, please visit the Agenda Center at [www.hamden.com/AgendaCenter](http://www.hamden.com/AgendaCenter). Then, review the recording by downloading the digital version of these minutes and following the instructions above\*\*\***

### Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Cardwell called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. **Attendance**
  - a. **In Attendance:** Sean Cardwell, Chairman; Ganiyu Mimiko; Tracy Bowens; Mike Thompson; Judith Goldberg; Rabbi Herbert Brockman
  - b. **Absent:** Martha Walker; Weruche George
  - c. **Also In Attendance:** Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk
3. **Approval of Past Minutes**
  - a. Chairman Cardwell requested a motion to approve the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Regular Meeting) minutes. Mr. Bowens made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Mimiko. All were in favor.
4. **Correspondence –N/A**
5. **Guest Speakers- N/A**
6. **Old Business**
  - a. **Connecticut Human Rights Commission Forum:** Review & potential next meeting
    - i. Chairman Cardwell noted that the next forum/meeting will take place on October 28<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, ideally centered on a single topic for discussion. Ms. Goldberg asked how the topic would be chosen, and suggested each town's commission review their respective purpose/mission. Chairman Cardwell suggested the HRRC establish some goals as a commission at the next regular meeting.

Rabbi Brockman questioned the status of Hamden's charter revision. Mr. Bowens confirmed that the charter revision was voted down, however there is an effort to petition to have it amended and added to the ballot in November. A brief discussion regarding the commission's advisory role ensued. Rabbi Brockman reminded commissioners that the HRRC has investigative authority, but, admittedly, has not fully explored or exercised this role. He also noted that the commission has the authority to make recommendations to the mayor, in regards

to programs/ group rights; advise and assist the town in eliminating discrimination.

Commissioners generally agreed that the language in the HRRC charter is ambiguous, perhaps intentionally so. Mr. Bowens commented that the commission may have the ability to rewrite their charter, possibly with the approval of the mayor or legislative council. Chairman Cardwell suggested examining the HRRC ordinances at the next meeting. Mr. Bowens suggested the formation of a committee to thoroughly examine the charter. A “Mission Committee” was created and Ms. Goldberg volunteered as chair. Chairman Cardwell and Rabbi Brockman volunteered to participate as well.

- b. Monthly Movie Series:** Discuss September movie
  - i. As Ms. George was absent, the discussion will be tabled until next month’s meeting.
- c. Covid-19:** Updates for Hamden
  - i. Chairman Cardwell commented that Hamden’s case numbers seem to be staying more or less level.

## 7. New Business

- a. Primary election and how to encourage voting**
  - i. There was a general consensus that there is a need to encourage voting and educate potential voters on the vital importance of voting.
- b. Guest Speaker:** October guest
  - i. Chairman Cardwell suggested Marji Shapiro as the guest speaker for the November meeting. She would be speaking about anti-defamation.
- c. Community Assistance- N/A**

## 8. Thoughts and Ideas- N/A

## 9. Executive Session (If Required)

- a.** Rabbi Brockman requested the commission enter into an executive session at 7:41 pm. At 7:49 pm, the executive session ended.

- 10. Adjournment:** At 7:50 pm, Mr. Bowens made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Rabbi Brockman. All were in favor.

**Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk**