



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
SOMERVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, July 16th, 2025

Start time: 6:30 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Somerville Human Rights Commission, may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85167835369?pwd=U4hsAeRZBaEKsXkooD2JpXTvoYls9B.1>

Meeting ID: 851 6783 5369

Passcode: 011391

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AGENDA

1) Welcome & Call to Order

- a) Attendance role call

OLD BUSINESS

2) Review of Past Minutes

- a) Approval of minutes from May HRC Meeting

3) Updates from the Racial and Social Justice Commissions Coordinator

- a) Recruitment and status of new Commissioners and anticipated timeline
 - i) Three newly appointed commissioners still need to be sworn in.
 - ii) Two commissioner candidates still awaiting CAPM meetings.
- b) Technology update – What tech/platform can the commission use to facilitate communication and collaboration.
- c) Focus groups – Update on where we stand with focus group planning. Tentative dates for focus groups are:
 - Tuesday, July 15, at 5:30pm in West Somerville at TAB Conference Room
 - Tuesday, August 5 at 8pm via Zoom/virtual participation.
- d) Language Accessibility – Update on language accessibility requirements for events, focus groups, posters and marketing, etc.
- e) Newsletter – Discuss how commission can participate in newsletter.



- 4) **Subcommittee Participation Clarification** – Commissioner Best was tasked with confirming whether non-commissioners may serve on sub-committees.
- 5) **Ageism Awareness Event** – Status update. Event date set (October 5, 2025), but budget approval was postponed until FY2026 budget is finalized.
- 6) **Executive Director Discussion** – The matter was tabled at our last meeting. Discuss specific responsibilities of said position and potential support structures, etc.
- 7) **Narrative4 Initiative** – This matter was tabled at our May 2025 meeting. Potential dates as writing are: July 21st, July 22nd, or July 25th.
- 8) **LGBTQIA+ Prison Data** – This matter was tabled at our May 2025 meeting.
- 9) **Structural Racism in Prisons** – This matter was tabled at our May 2025 meeting.
- 10) **Salem Human Rights Award** – This matter was tabled at our May 2025 meeting.
- 11) **Promotion of City Diversity Committee Follow-up** – Empowered to develop formal communication channels following the withdrawn AAPI statement motion—progress should be reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

- 12) **HRC Commission Liaison** – Discuss concerns about stability of the HRC during this vacancy. Update on status of vacancy.
- 13) **Recruiting an Advisory Council** – Discussion per ordinance.
- 14) **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** – Discuss potential impact of temporarily implementing a single point of contact to streamline and triage communications.
- 15) **Somerville ArtBeat** – Does the HRC wish to table at this event. Discussion.
- 16) **John Lewis Memorial event** – Informational update on July 17th event.
- 17) **August HRC Speaker** – Confirm Liz Eldridge’s availability and attendance.
- 18) **USIDHR** – Consider sending members to this training <https://learn.usidhr.org/>
- 19) **HRC Website** – Discussion on adding community services, partner resources, intergovernmental contacts, etc., to <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office->



[somerville-commissions/human-rights-commission](https://www.somerville-ma.gov/somerville-commissions/human-rights-commission)

20) Commission Budget – If available, review and discuss FY2026 budget.

21) Future Agenda Items – Commissioners may briefly identify topics they would like placed on a future agenda. No discussion or deliberation will take place.

22) Closing – Next meeting: Wednesday, August 20, 2025

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