



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

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

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

Published August 18, 2025 at 2:51pm

REVISED Published August 19, 2025 at 2:00pm

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:

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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 RSJ

- a) Recruitment efforts and general updates of new Commissioners and anticipated timeline
- b) Technology update – What tech/platform can the commission use to facilitate communication and collaboration.
- c) Focus groups – Update.
- 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 – Update from Chair.



- 5) **Ageism Project** – Status update. Event date set (October 5, 2025), but budget approval was postponed until FY2026 budget is finalized. Budget request.
- 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** – Update.
- 8) **LGBTQIA+ Prison Data** – This matter was tabled at our May 2025 meeting. Update.
- 9) **Structural Racism in Prisons** – This matter was tabled at our May 2025 meeting. Update.
- 10) **Salem Human Rights Award** – This matter was tabled at our May 2025 meeting. Update.
- 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**Promotion of City Diversity Committee Follow-up** – Empowered to develop formal communication channels following the withdrawn AAPI statement motion—progress should be reviewed.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

Community Outreach & Engagement

12. **Community Outreach** – Fluff Fest – September 20. Discuss HRC tabling.
13. **Outreach – Digital** – How we can reach members of our community using technology/social media.
14. **Community Resource Page** – Discuss development of a community resource page.
15. **HRC Website** – Discussion on adding community services, partner resources, intergovernmental contacts, etc.

Governance & Stability

13. **Elections** – Discuss and plan for Commission elections.
14. **HRC Commission Liaison** – Discuss concerns about stability of the HRC during this vacancy. Update on status of vacancy.



15. Enforcement and Investigations – How the HRC can have a meaningful impact.

16. Commission Budget – Review and discuss FY2026 budget.

Structural & Operational Improvements

16. Establish Standing Committees – Discuss the need for standing committees.

17. Recruiting an Advisory Council – Discussion per ordinance.

18. Single Point of Contact (SPOC) – Discuss potential impact of temporarily implementing a single point of contact to streamline and triage communications.

19. General Brainstorm on Operations – How can we improve the HRC.

Training, Partnerships & Guests

23. Guest Speaker Liz Eldridge – Approve September invitation.

24. USIDHR Training – Consider sending members to this training: <https://learn.usidhr.org/>

Public Communications

19. Issuance of Public Statements – Discuss how the commission can issue public statements.

Closing

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

Next meeting: 6:30PM Wednesday, September 17, 2025



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