



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

Wednesday, September 17, 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83706933424?pwd=Ngcdhu8UWBmXorDaVLRsZs7EofY8Oa.1>

Meeting ID: 837 0693 3424

Passcode: 432577

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,83706933424#,,, *432577# US

+13126266799,,83706933424#,,, *432577# US (Chicago)

Join instructions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/83706933424/invitations?signature=ShfzcpT6PbyUc1lCCnaZ X325fqndxI6lxwuPcQUUkkk>

AGENDA

I. WELCOME

1.1) Attendance and roll call confirm quorum and note participants.

II. OLD BUSINESS

2.1) Review of Past Minutes

a) Approval of minutes from August HRC Meeting



2.2) Updates from Racial & Social Justice Department (RSJ)

- a) HRC Swag and outreach materials; reveal logo design draft
- b) Training opportunities
- c) Updates regarding question about subcommittee work and functions

2.3) Ageism Project

- a) Status update – event date confirmed for October 5, 2025
- b) Review outstanding needs (budget confirmation, outreach, logistics support, etc)

III. NEW BUSINESS

3) Community Outreach & Engagement

3.1) Guest Speaker – Liz Eldridge

- a) Presentation on special education issues; confirm details and schedule

3.2) Fluff Fest – September 20

- a) Finalize HRC tabling plans (volunteers, outreach materials, talking points)

3.3) Digital Outreach

- a) Strategies to better reach community members via social media, etc.

3.4) Newsletter

- a) Discuss content to include in October’s publication etc.

3.5) HRC Website

- a) Discuss potential additions: community services, resources, intergovernmental contacts.

3.6) Community Agreements

- a) Continue onboarding process; clarify commissioner roles, expectations, and norms



4) Governance & Stability

4.1) Somerville Declaration of Human Rights

- a) Revisit the idea of drafting a Somerville Declaration of Human Rights

4.2) Commission Elections

- a) Plan for officer elections (timeline, process, roles to be filled)

4.3) Enforcement & Investigations

- a) Explore ways the HRC can strengthen its impact and authority on local issues

4.4) Commission Budget

- a) Review and discuss FY2026 funding priorities and requests

5) Structural & Operational Improvements

5.1) Committee Assignments

- a) Discuss committee structure, assignments, and objectives for the year

5.2) Institutional Knowledge

- a) Develop strategies to document and transfer institutional knowledge

5.3) Document Management

- a) Discuss best options to manage commission-related data etc.

5.3) Email & Communications

- a) Establish clearer norms for internal communications and official correspondence

6) Training, Partnerships & Guests

6.1) USIDHR Training

- a) Consider sending members to training (<https://learn.usidhr.org>)

6.2) Narrative 4 Training

- a) General discussion of training content; review participant notes and experiences



7) Public Communications

7.1) Issuance of Public Statements

- a) Discuss criteria, process, and approval steps for issuing public HRC statements

8) Closing

8.1) Future Agenda Items

Commissioners may identify topics for future agendas with no discussion or deliberation.

Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2025

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e. CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance, at 617-625-6600 x2050 or Apomeroy@somervillema.gov.