



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

January 14, 2021
Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Nancy Salamoun, Staff Liaison, Mgr. of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Lara Versari, Commissioner
Michael Henson, Commissioner

Public: Amy Henson
Keidrick Roy
Derrick Rice
Sidd Pattanayak
Christopher Spicer Hankle
Lindsey Green

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting commenced on January 14, 2021 at 6:35pm.

Membership Discussion

Immigrant Stories

HRC members and volunteer discussed ways to highlight immigrant stories in the community. Members discussed collaborating with organizations and departments such as Somerviva and the Welcome Project.

Members and volunteers discussed working with the Somerville Media Center to put together videos that highlight immigrant stories. Suggestions included stories on business owners during Covid times.

Members and volunteers discussed potential reports that could come from these interviews, particularly as it aligns with the mission and obligations of the Commission.

Members and volunteers will continue to develop the details of this project in upcoming meetings. They will look to discuss the dimensions of the stories, the intended impact, intended mission and delivery mechanism.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Event Planning

Members discussed final details of the event for January 18, 2021. Participant submissions will be added to the Program by the Communications Department.

Old Business

Hate Crimes

Sgt. Perrone will attend the February 2021 meeting as a follow up to the November 2020 meeting. Following November's discussion with the Commission, Sargent Perrone developed an anonymous online form for reporting hate crimes in the City. The form can be found at:

<https://form.jotform.com/203414035640140>

The Commissioners and volunteers would like to better understand the process after reporting the abuse. Where does this information go, how is it handled, who

handles it? Is this provided in different languages? Are there different ways to link to the form and where else can this information live? Are there statistics and numbers? Can someone from SPD report/attend meeting either quarterly or twice a year? What services are available for victims after reporting?

Meeting Minutes

The following minutes were approved: December 10, 2020 regular meeting, December 21, 2020 supplemental meeting and January 8, 2021 supplemental meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm