

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING - JANUARY 12th, 2022**

**VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Washington called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm
  
2. **Roll Call/Attendance:** taken by Secretary Copeland. Present Via Zoom: Castella Copeland, Linda Massa, Jim Burke, Chairman Washington, Joyce Armstrong, Rebecca Jacobsen, Byron Bobb. Excused absences: Rebecca Jacobsen and Josh Amaro. Unexcused Absences: Leonard Swade, Pat Mack. Copeland has a tracker via google sheets that is updated each meeting recently separated by Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.
  
3. **Public Communications:** Burke noted that there is no one present in the room and on Zoom. Chairman Washington closed the public communications portion at 6:35 pm.
  
4. **Approval of Minutes: December 2021**  
Chairman Washington made a motion to approve December minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.
  
5. **Liaison Report/Treasurer Report: James Burke**  
Burke briefly shared that he filed the approval of the meeting schedule with the Town clerk. The town takes 30 days to approve of upcoming schedules, meaning today's meeting is the last special meeting we requested however the remainder of the meetings this year will be approved of by the town. Burke also shared that Alaina and Sandra did research on an electronic program that could be used for the Black jeopardy event and found a usable program if the commission approves. Burke also shared that Alaina and Sandra are working together to put on a weekly bit of Windsor Black History and focusing on four personages of Black history. Alaina and Sandra will share via posts on the Town of Windsor's social media accounts each week in February for residents and community members to learn more about local history. Chairman Washington asked if anyone has any questions for Burke before he hopped off to another commission's meeting.
  
6. **New Business:**  
Chairman Washington stated that there is no new business, the commission will have a very brief meeting today that will continue to focus on the old business with the details.
  
7. **Old Business:**

### **A. BRIDGE BUILDER 2022**

Chairman Washington shared that he had a hard time getting in contact with Richard Armstrong to let him know he was nominated for an award. Armstrong said she would reach out to make sure he gets the message. Chairman Washington also shared concern over having upcoming events in person due to the increase in Covid rates. Chairman Washington proposes that the commission push the Bridge Builder Award ceremony to the end of February or early March. Massa, Copeland, and Armstrong share similar sentiments of pushing it closer to March. Massa made a motion to move bridge builders to move it to March 3/3/2022 Thursday. Armstrong seconded the motion and all were in favor of the date change. Alaina checked the Town of Windsor schedule and will check in with Burke on reaching out to make sure the Chamber space can be reserved for that time.

### **B. ONE BOOK ONE WINDSOR**

Chairman Washington and Copeland will produce the schedule for the One Book One Windsor event. Copeland shared that The National BLACK Cooperative along with Central Connecticut State University Students who are a part of the John Lewis Scholarship program may be able to attend as panelists if the date could be pushed a bit later into February since the original date 2/1 is coming up too quickly. Chairman Washington shared that these dates will be discussed with Copeland and shared with the rest of the commission after the details have been worked out. Chairman Washington said that this event could potentially work better if it was in mid-February.

### **C. BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022**

Chairman Washington shared that folks love Black history as an in-person event. However, with Covid on the rise can it be done virtually? Alaina shared that the event would be much harder to do virtually. Jacobsen and Massa shared sentiments about being bummed out to not do the event again the 2nd year in a row. Massa inquired where the event was previously held? Chairman Washington shared in the Town Chambers. Chairman Washington suggested that the commission could host the event around 27th or 28th in February? Jacobsen shared that it is still not safe with Covid rates so do not do it now. Chairman Washington suggests along with Jacobsen, Copeland, and Armstrong to do the Black History Jeopardy event during the month of Juneteenth. Chairman Washington shared that the commission can do the weekend of Juneteenth for Black History similar to how in 2021 there were multiple events. Alaina shared that she will follow up with Burke on potential dates.

Chairman Washington shared that the 6/17 Friday event is not established yet, 6/18 Saturday Black Jeopardy, and 6/19 Sunday is the actual day the commission will host Juneteenth. Massa inquired, will things be like last year? Chairman Washington and Copeland shared that a layout of details is in the works being discussed on a subcommittee. Jacobsen and Massa expressed interest in joining the planning team. Jacobsen suggested an HBCU marching band should come and play a few pieces. Chairman Washington and Jacobsen also suggested having Black Sororities and Fraternities that would like to step during the performance portion. Jacobsen shared that Nuchette and Ayana have strong sorority connections along with other commissioners who have network connections that can be reached out to. Chairman Washington shared that some step teams will have a friendly competition with one another in stepping.

Chairman Washington shared that he and Copeland will assist with the creation of an event with a conversation on race series with a focus on health. Jacobsen inquired if the commission will focus on Black Maternal health? Chairman Washington shared that is the goal and he has some connections he will reach out to in the medical profession. Jacobsen shared she will also reach out to some doctors and folks that she knows. Jacobsen also shared that once she gets more dates and times for the Black Health Discussion she can reach out to some contacts as well. Chairman Washington shared it would be great to get a Black doula or someone else in a similar profession on the panel. Massa shared that she recently watched a show on Brown and Black maternal health that was very powerful. Chairman Washington shared that it would be great to have this event look at Black men's health and prostate cancer. Chairman Washington will comb the medical contacts he knows to see if some are interested. Chairman Washington suggests that this event be pushed to the third week of February after the John Lewis book conversation. All events will be virtual due to the state of the pandemic. Massa, Jacobsen, and Washington shared that even though it may be uncomfortable or seem like a violation when getting certain procedures or conversations going on getting things checked, ultimately it keeps folks alive.

**8. Items from Commissioners:**

Chairman Washington shared with commissioners to think of phenomenal women in the community to nominate this March. Chairman Washington also shared that he or another commissioner will need to reach out to the Bridge Builder Awardees to notify them of the date change. Massa volunteered to call everyone and volunteered to do more since she has the time and capacity to do so.

Armstrong inquired if the Afghanistan family is here in Windsor yet? Chairman Washington shared that the family is here. Armstrong expressed interest in helping out, is it possible? Washington and Jacobsen suggested Armstrong and others who are interested to reach out to the First Church in Windsor for more information.

**9. Adjournment:**

Chairman Washington made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jacobsen and Armstrong. The meeting was adjourned by 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Castella Copeland, Secretary