

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING NOTICE - FEBRUARY 9th, 2022**

HYBRID MEETING

1. **Call to Order- Judge Kevin Washington at 6:49 pm**
2. **Roll Call/Attendance:** taken by Secretary Copeland. Present in Person: Castella Copeland and Jim Burke. Present Via Zoom: Rebecca Jacobsen and Josh Amaro Chairman Washington, Rebecca Jacobsen, Byron Bobb. Excused absences: Joyce Armstrong, and Linda Massa. Unexcused Absences: Leonard Swade and Bryon Bobb. 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 6:50 pm.
4. **Approval of Minutes: JANUARY 2022**

Mack made a motion to approve January minutes. The motion was passed unanimously. Chairman Washington added a brief edit of the misspelling of Ayana and Nuchette Black Burke in January 2022 minutes.
5. **Liaison Report/Treasurer Report: James Burke**

Burke shared that a copy of the ethics policy was sent out to commission members. The code of ethics is sent out every year and is mailed out with a return envelope. Papers have to be turned in to the town clerk. Burke shared that he is looking into the Gillette fund with an organization in Hartford. He also shared that he is still unsure of how much is available and what the process is. Burke shared with the committee the next item the commission needs to address is the Town of Windsor's printed brochure. The deadline is 2/15/22 which is the final date for when events will be published in the booklet. Burke noted that events can always be added online, but this is the one that is printed out.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **Kereme Murrell**

Chairman Washington stated that Commissioner Murrell has resigned from the commission for professional reasons. He will be removed from attendance, commissioners thanked Murrell for his service and work.
 - B. **Vice-Chair**

Chairman Washington shared that Mack would like to step down because she has obligations to take care of and needs to take a step back. The next ranking officer is the Secretary who has agreed to step up as Vice Chair as long as it is fine with the remaining commissioners. Chairman Washington inquired if there are any additional comments or sentiments. Mack shared her personal

nomination for secretary Copeland as vice-chair. Washington thanked Mack for her commitment and dedication. Jacobsen seconds Mack notion for Copeland as vice-chair. Motion carries 5 - 0. Chairman Washington asked if we can have the vice-chair take notes. Chairman Washington stated since Copeland is now in the vice-chair role, the Secretary position is now open. Burke shared Copeland can continue to take notes as long as commissioners are okay with it.

C. Calendar May-August 2022

Honoring And Celebration Of Shavuot June 4-6, 2022

Chairman Washington shared that this is primarily a recognition of the holiday of the Jewish faith and community. Chairman Washington will take the lead on this event. Burke inquired if the commission wants anything for the calendar, is it an event? Chairman Washington noted that this is not an event this year, but maybe in the future.

Juneteenth –June 17-19

Chairman Washington shared that on June 17th, 2022 a Friday has been identified as Black History Jeopardy Night at 6:00 pm. Chairman Washington also shared that on June 19th, 2022 the Town will celebrate a Juneteenth celebration event on the town green. Chairman Washington inquired if the town green will be open? Burke said he will check with the town clerks. Chairman Washington shared that Bloomfield will join the town of Windsor on the town green. Chairman Washington asked Burke to see if the commission can have the space from 12 pm to 5 pm. Mack inquired for information about Black History Jeopardy being switched from February to June. Chairman Washington is unsure of what event will be on June 18th, but there will be an event that will happen. Washington inquired if Copeland reach out to step teams and sororities and fraternities yet? Copeland shared not yet but it is on the list of items to do.

Chairman Washington also shared that funds will depend on what Burke will find. Burke shared that Elaina will end her assignment in March and has found resources we can use for the Black Jeopardy. Chairman Washington asked if we can share gratitude for Elaina's service? Burke shared that it is nice of us to express support but she is moving on in her life.

7. Old Business:

A. Bridge Builder 2022 (March 10, 2022)

Chairman Washington inquired if there is anything to address for this event? Will the commission be able to have food? Burke shared the commission will check in with the health department and some form of food will be available. There may be concern over self-serve items but rather individually packaged items would be preferable. Burke shared the commission will see and go from there. Chairman Washington delegates Joyce Armstrong since she is good with working on that since she contributed last year. Chairman Washington asked if the commission will be able to have more people in person? Burke shared that the commission has 16 nominees and each can bring three guests, so the commission will have a full house including the spacing of seats. Chairman Washington shared that Albert Narcisse is deceased so the number dropped down to 15, Copeland and Washington will help lead the

event. Burke shared that even with recognizing Albert the total is 17. Burk shared the list of nominees. Burke inquired if Chairman Washington could provide the commission the form and reasoning for the chairman awards that would be great for context. Chairman Washington shared that he asked Sandra to do poster boards for each participant. Chairman Washington shared that three sets of each nominee's poster would be ideal since the Windsor historical society wants a copy for the archives. Chairman Washington asked if Mack or Copeland will assist with hosting and presentation. Mack requested that Copeland take over the role. Burke asked if Washington could share the reason why the Chairman recipients could be nominated to get out into the local paper.

Chairman Washington shared that he wants to have a Bridge Builder awardee event for the month of May. All the bridge builders who have been awarded will do a volunteer event with the Red cross or a food and fuel collection at the town hall or something. Chairman Washington will work on it and asked the commission if it is a good idea to proceed with it? Chairman Washington asked Armano if the police would also go in on that in the month of May. Chairman Washington shared that May is Cinco de Mayo and the commission needs to recognize that as well. Finally, Chairman Washington shared that the month of March is phenomenal woman month, please remember to fill out nominations if possible.

B. One Book One Windsor (February 13, 2022) Upcoming events:

Sunday 2/13/22 One book one Windsor 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm which will take place online. Copeland shared that the event will encourage participants to have discussions from the lessons that the great John Lewis shared in the book. There are three main panelists who will provide a rich perspective on the subject matter. One of the panelists is a John Lewis Scholar from CCSU and the other two panelists have done work within the local CT area and work with the National Black Cooperative. Mack asked if the commission knew it was Superbowl Sunday? Copeland yes, however, the original 2/1/22 date was too soon for folks to know about it.

C. Upcoming Events:

Sunday 2/20/22 Black History in Windsor 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm Chairman Washington shared that Windsor Historical Society will lead a short presentation on the interpretation of Black History in Windsor. Douglass Shipman and many other local Windsor Scholars will be presenting and sharing on the subject matter.

Sunday 2/27/22 Health Disparities in the BIPOC community Discussion 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm Copeland shared that two graduate students would like to present for this event. Jacobsen shared that she knows Doctor Alueshima Evelyn Akough-Weir who has a personal and medical perspective on reproductive health justice. Chairman Washington reached out to Dr. Maria Ochan who has spoken in the past. Mack shared she was phenomenal since Chairman Washington and Mack saw her present at a previous event. Chairman Washington shared that more information will come and Copeland will reach out to her contacts as well. Jacobsen shared that her contact will be attending virtually and Dr. Ochan will attend virtually. Chairman Washington asked if the commission can have both names for the panelist's lists. Chairman Washington also shared that the commission may have to split the conversation into two events with Black men's health.

Chairman Washington shared that Copeland will do a conversation on intersectionality and there is a tentative lineup for March events that will be rolled out next meeting.

8. Items from Commissioners

Chairman Preparing Communication To The Town Council Regarding Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes

Chairman Washington is preparing a resolution and has asked the commission for support in recognizing that anti-Semitic activities are hate crimes and to recognize that Windsor will not stand for that. Once it is all organized, Chairman Washington will ask the mayor and deputy mayor to sign off on it. Chairman Washington will send out a draft to all commissioners via email.

Chairman Preparing Communication To Address Hate In Asian Communities To Present

Chairman Washington also shared another event that will be held on Asian hate crimes. Chairman Washington shared that he reached out to Kevin Booker since he led a conversation on Asian American hate crimes and the commission will do an event on it in the future.

Travel to International African American Museum in South Carolina When It Opens Late 2022.

Chairman Washington shared that it will open in the fall. Mack asked for more details. Chairman Washington shared that right now it is not available but he is finding out more items about travel.

In a round table closing style, Chairman Washington asked if any other commissioners have items to contribute. Armano, Copeland, Burke, Mack, do not have additional items to contribute.

9. Adjournment:

Chairman Washington motioned for adjournment at 7:30 pm which was seconded by Jacobsen.

Respectfully submitted

Castella Copeland Vice Chair