

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION SPECIAL  
MEETING NOTICE - WEDNESDAY MAY 18<sup>th</sup>,  
2022**

1. **Call to Order-** Chair Washington called to order 7:17 pm. He noted there is no quorum for voting but we will be in discussion.
2. **Roll Call/Attendance-** taken by Secretary Copeland. Present in Person: Patrick McMahon, Chairman Washington. Present Via Zoom: Linda Massa, Rebecca Jacobsen, Castella Copeland. Excused absences: Leonard Swade. Unexcused Absences: Pat Mack and Joyce Armstrong, and Leonard Swade, 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:** McMahon noted that there is no one present in the speaking room.
4. **Approval of Minutes: April 13, 2022, and Approval of Additional items.** Motion to pay Nekita Waller honorarium of \$150. Commissioner Copeland called to motion seconded by Commissioner Jacobsen. Motion passes 5 – 0. The commission previously asked Loomis Chaffee and Madina Academy to be included in the scholarship, reaffirming vote. Commissioner Mack called to motion seconded by Commissioner Massa. Motion passes 5 – 0. Motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Jacobsen called to motion, seconded by Commissioner Mack motion passes 5 – 0.
5. **Liaison Report/Treasurer Report:** McMahon noted that the budget includes 3300 all together for Juneteenth event. Scholarship is around 690 dollars or so, in the budget documents and when presented to the public it gets voted on. McMahon stated that this money is on special revenue amount for scholarships for high school students. Unless the commission goes to town council or get it approved of. McMahon's suggestion is to get the money together for scholarships for next year. Chairman Washington: opening scholarship up to Loomis Chaffee and Madina. Last year commission voted and approved on opening the scholarship funds to other schools. Commissioner Massa shared the importance of including other schools within Windsor to be more inclusive. McMahon will reach out to Peter on the purpose and other items before getting back to the commission. Details to come next meeting.

6. **New Business:**

**A. Calendar of Activities for FY22-23**

*9/2022-POSSIBLE TRIP:* Chairman Washington suggested to move this to October since September is loaded. Trip would be to the African American or other relevant museums.

*9/2022 LGBTQIA+ Discussion:* Chairman Washington shared that First Church in Windsor has asked the Human Relations Commission to participate in or assist in providing a panel for this discussion. Hartford also does an event this upcoming June. Chairman Washington shared that additional request for items in June to celebrate LGBTQIA+ can be done in October since the commission is hard at work with Juneteenth. Commissioner Copeland shared that Pastor Nicole is looking for someone to speak at their Sacred Conversation in June around the LGBTQIA+ discussion. Commissioner Massa shared the importance of awareness at a young age for children to have these difficult conversations. Chairman Washington shared he will reach out to his contacts and get back to it. Commissioner Massa asked questions about current

conversations within the school system.

Commissioner Jacobsen and Copeland provided insight into how inclusivity can occur within school systems, at home, and within community spaces. The commission had a rich discussion about LGBTQIA+ community and education. Chairman Washington was approached by community members if the Pride Flag could be flown under the American flag just for the month of June. McMahon will look into it and ask Peter; he will get back to the commission. Commissioner Copeland will send the version of the flag that includes people at the intersections. This will be sent out via email.

*9/2022 Bridge Builders Community Event:* Chairman Washington shared this event was pushed from 21-22 calendar year into the new one since there was not enough time. The main question is do we have this event in September or October? All commissioners agree that having this event in October.

*9/2022 Back to school tools, tips and tricks entering the new school year:* Commissioner Copeland shared youth and young adults want to have sessions and items on how to get organized and receive wisdom from others. This event would be great to connect folks of all ages in learning from one another. Commissioner Copeland shared that two other organizations may be willing to collaborate with the commission on this. Chairman Washington suggests having an enhancement of coordinating with the local library to get additional resources available. Commissioner Mack, Jacobsen, and Copeland will brainstorm items together. Commissioners Massa and Mack shared that vocational schools, mental health for teachers, mental health for students should also be included. McMahon shared that if there are other programs going on we can go support them. Next Tuesday 6:00 – 8:00pm mental health event at the library.

*10/2022 Men's health and Suicide awareness:* Commissioner Copeland shared that this is an extension of the conversation from February 2022. The community wanted additional conversation about BIPOC men's health in addition to mental health, mental illness, and mental wellness conversations. Commissioner Massa shared some information about men's health as a former nurse in the field. McMahon shared that June is men's health awareness month, and September is suicide awareness month. Chairman Washington shared that this is essential for us to have. Commissioner Mack shared similar sentiments as well and asked if we can get information from local organizations. Chairman Washington will reach out to his contacts to see if organizations can table at Juneteenth. McMahon shared that health department will be tabling at Juneteenth and McMahon will reach out to see if they can focus on men's health.

*11/2022 Replaced with VOTING RIGHTS discussion possibly with Loomis Chaffee School students- PRISM Group.* Chairman Washington shared that this group would like to partner with the Human Relation Commission to discuss and put on an event in November. Loomis Chaffee wants us to choose a date and send it out to them. McMahon clarified if we want to have an event, we need to have it last week of October or first week of November. Commissioner Mack suggested teaming up with the town council with members of both parties to see if they would be able to participate in the conversation. Commissioner Massa shared that the commission could potentially provide rides or support voter registration. Commissioner Massa and Mack shared the new districting and voting lines that have changed everything up. Chairman Washington will research some ideas up and send out to the commission to get feedback or other ideas. He also shared that if this is done in early October, we may be able to get some local politicians. McMahon shared the League of Women voters would be great for the discussion as well. This event will be done with or without the collaboration.

*11/2022 Bridge Builder Nominations Open:* Chairman Washington shared that this is a reminder we need to set a date. McMahon shared based on previous dates, it is usually the Monday after Thanksgiving. Commissioner Mack shared a soft date of 11/28 and 11/30 for the applications. Commissioner Mack and Commissioner Copeland were asked to host the event.

*12/2022 Holidays around the World discussion with panelists from local spiritual groups:* Commissioner Copeland shared that community members would like to discuss the many holidays that happen around the world, why they are not promoted as much in the US and what we can do to be educated and aware. Commissioner Copeland shared this would be a panel discussion and could integrate the intersection of race and other elements within as well. Chairman Washington asked Commissioner Copeland to provide additional information and we will discuss at the next event.

#### **B. Setting up Calendar of HRC Meetings FY 22-23**

Chairman Washington shared that the conversation on race will continue onward. Chairman Washington welcomed additional commissioners for ideas. Chairman Washington also reminded folks about choosing one book one Windsor. Commissioner Massa shared it would be great to focus on the History of Windsor as our book this year. Chairman Washington and Commissioner Massa shared they would reach out to the historical society to potentially partner with them. Commissioner Washington also shared if the commission could work on the one book one Windsor now, the information can be passed on more sooner.

#### **C. Budget for HRC FY 22 – 23**

McMahon has the records in the book, not in front of him right now but we are all set.

#### **D. Moving to Hybrid In Person and Online Events Fall 2022 (discussion).**

Commissioner Copeland recognized that this may need to happen to be able to participate. Commissioner Massa shared that having Zoom allows for us to make a quorum. Chairman Washington shared that we need to do our responsibility as commissioners to show up and do our part to be of better service to the community. He also shared commissioners need to show up when we have events, meetings, and additional items that we want to support. Chairman Washington shared that if commissioners are unable to attend, send McMahon, Copeland, and or Chairman Washington an email.

### **7. Old Business:**

#### **A. CVS Windsor Display Update**

McMahon shared that there is a series of display windows outside of CVS. It is managed by first downtown down to advertise for Juneteenth. There happens to be one available space on the side and still get a lot of views on the side. McMahon shared that groups really go all out and reflect the organization and we need to decide on it quickly. McMahon's main question is do we keep the side window for this year or reserve the front window for next year 2023? Commissioner Massa shared she can help put up the display but is not key on designing it. Chairman Washington's thought is Commissioner Mack and Copeland work on the design and Commissioner Massa and Armstrong insert the display. Commissioner Mack asked if it's the CVS on broad street and how big the window is. McMahon shared other groups have items in the window which would be great to grab attention. Chairman Washington suggested that the deadline for the window be June 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners will meet May 28<sup>th</sup> or May 29<sup>th</sup> so more members can participate in setting up the display. McMahon will place Jane Garibay in contact with Commissioner Copeland for ideas on the display that we can do. Commissioner Massa shared we should incorporate the flyer, Chairman Washington shared we should incorporate the Juneteenth colors. Commissioner Copeland has ideas we can use around the theme of Juneteenth.

The town of Windsor Human Relations commission will approve up to \$500 for the CVS Windsor Display. Commissioner Mack moved the motion and Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. Motion carries 5 – 0.

**B. Shad Derby booth and Bridge Builder Alumni Participation 5/21/2022**

McMahon shared this will be held at the Shad Derby Festival on the town green in Windsor. Event will run from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. McMahon shared that the Human Relation Commission has a flyer on the website and it is suggested that we share via social media. Commissioner Massa shared she could come 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm for tabling and clean up. Commissioner Mack can do 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for set up and tabling. Commissioner Armstrong has a tent to use for the event, it can be dropped off later this week. McMahon shared that Commissioner Armstrong can drop it off and hold onto it at town hall. McMahon also shared we need to add some fliers out there for Juneteenth to share about all the great events coming up. Commissioner Massa asked where we will be on town green. McMahon shared across the beanery on the opposing side. Commissioner Mack confirmed that she will arrive around 8:30 am

**C. Collaborative Bloomfield and Windsor Juneteenth Events Thursday 6/16/2022 to Sunday 6/19/2022**

Chairman Washington shared he went to Sandra Brown and McMahon to go to one place to register for events and one flyer with all the events on it so we can start to promote the event. Chairman Washington is taking on role of media and press. Hartford hospital has expressed participating alongside other organizations who would like to table at the event. Chairman Washington will send official message out to Bloomfield and Windsor about the upcoming events.

**A.** Thursday 6/16 Spoken Word as Storytelling @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Windsor Art center. Chairman Washington shared that this would include music, poetry, and sharing stories. Commissioner Copeland set up a registration link and will be hosting the event. Commissioner Armstrong asked if other items are needed. Chairman Washington shared that it would be great if other commissioners could come and support. Commissioners can come half an hour early to support in setting up for the event. Chairman Washington will reach out to see the art center policies on bringing in food.

**B.** Friday 6/17 Black History Jeopardy @ 6:30 – 8:30 pm. This will consist of seven teams with four people each to represent their organizations. Chairman Washington shared this will be like the year before and McMahon, Sandra Brown and Commissioner Copeland will place the questions within the jeopardy slides. This event will be held within the town council hosted by Kevin Booker Jr. and Chairman Kevin Washington. Sandra Brown has ordered medals to be awarded to the top three teams. Commissioner Massa and Armstrong volunteered to help check in teams around 6:00 pm.

**C. Saturday 6/18 Bloomfield, Wilson, and Windsor Events**

- a. Wilson Public Library: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm: Commissioner Copeland shared that this event would focus more on reading a story for children, doing some drumming, dancing and playing music.
- b. The Ray of Hope Project 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM McMahon Wintonbury Library Commissioner Copeland shared that this event would focus more on reading a story for children, doing some drawing, dancing and playing music.
- c. Bloomfield Parade: 10:30 am start time with a spot reserved for the Human Relations Commission. Chairman Washington shared we are combining events with the Bloomfield Relations Commission. There will be food afterwards provided and this is also where the Windsor Town Council has been invited to walk in the parade. Chairman Washington shared that other Windsor organizations will be marching and participating. Applications are out for folks who would like to participate. The parade starts at 11:00 am and will end early afternoon or so.

**D. Sunday 6/19 Bloomfield and Windsor Events**

- a. All Church Community Service event: 10 am to 11:30 am at Hopewell Baptist church. Chairman Washington shared that this event is for everyone in the community. It is not partial to one group. This event will celebrate father's day and Juneteenth. Pastor Nicole will be speaking; any other pastors are also invited to speak as well.
- b. WHRC Juneteenth Celebration on Windsor Town Green 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Chairman Washington shared that this event will mainly be dancing, music, motivational speakers and celebration. There will be other organizations tabling at the event and providing educational opportunities. Chairman Washington also shared that there will be a need for a DJ, sound equipment, and chairs on the stairs. Chairman

Washington shared that commissioner need to arrive at 12:00 pm to assist in set up. McMahon has additional questions about DJ, redundant in equipment. Chairman Washington suggested that we play CDs for people to have music to dance to instead. Commissioner Mack made motion to pay \$750 for Gary Douguwits and Commissioner Copeland seconded motion. Motion carried 5 – 0. Chairman Washington shared Grace Church will be providing juice, cupcakes by Moinets, fishy tails will be coming again, snow cones from police department, chairs will be donated for folks to sit in but it would be better if folks brought their own. Commissioner Massa will hang up flyers at town hall

Bloomfield Police department challenged Windsor Police department to a basketball tournament to encourage community participation. This has not gone out yet but will be worked on by Chairman Washington this weekend. Winner will get bragging rights and hold onto a trophy until next Juneteenth.

- c. Bloomfield Community Cookout: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Blue Hills Fire Department. Food will be provided, folks from Windsor and other towns are invited to attend this as well and go to both Bloomfield and Windsor events.

## **8. Round Robin Updates from Commissioners**

**9. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Armstrong seconded by Massa. Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.**

**10. Next Meeting June 8, 2022, at 6:30 pm EST.**

