

CITY OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

LYNN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Jordan Avery
Debra Brandy
Omozee Idusuyi
Nicole McClain
Adriana Paz



Cristian Recinos
Hunter Richard
Brandy Rodriguez
Ivanna Solano
Attorney James Wellock
Theresa C. Young, Clerk

Audrey Jimenez, Chairperson

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 6:00 P.M. - Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Chairperson Audrey Jimenez, Jordan Avery, Debra Brandy, Adrianna Paz, Cristian Recinos, Hunter Richard, Brandy Rodriguez, and Ivanna Solano. (Nicole McClain emailed to say she was having a problem connecting to the meeting).

Others Present: Attorney James Wellock and Terry Young, Clerk

Chairperson Jimenez called the Meeting to order. She welcomed and introduced the newest member to the Human Rights Commission, Ivanna Solano.

Chairperson Jimenez welcomed Faustina Cuevas to the meeting to give an update. A few of the members had asked for an update on the Real Team. Faustina stated that the Real Team was put together by the Mayor to address City Hall issues. She said they included welcoming residents, revamping the Affirmative Action Plan, and Bathrooms (adding changing tables to some of the bathroom). She stated that they are on board with community members, and the Mayor will be adding a member from the Human Rights Commission to the Committee. Brandy Rodriguez asked if changing tables will be in every bathroom. Faustina stated she is a huge advocate in both men and women rooms, and she stated down the road will be a bigger issue addressing gender neutral bathrooms. She wants community voices to be part of the discussion. She said she is definitely trying to make this happen.

Chairperson Jimenez asked if the city has an Affirmative Action Plan now. Faustina stated yes but not updated. She stated it was created in late 1993, and it has not been looked at. Legally we have to have one internal document, and that community members and Real Team members will have a voice. It will also be translated in Spanish.

Faustina updated the members regarding ALERT. She stated that the city hired a Consultant, MAPC and the Collins Center to help us with the process, getting community input and stakeholders. She stated at some point in late July, Eliot Human Services will be assisting the city and Police Department. Eliot Community Human Services applied, and the CDHC was granted the contract. She stated that there are 25 CBHC across the state. She stated that there are 60 clinicians housed at the Pleasant Street site. The CBH Team is there. The city saw an opportunity to partner with them because of their long-standing clinical expertise. She stated there is not a MOU with them, however they want to hear from the Lynn Racial Justice Coalition. Faustina stated that they are open to suggestions. She would like to keep the Human Rights Commission involved.

Chairperson Jimenez had questions regarding the controversy that Eliot being part of the response with the police. Faustina stated the CBHS is independent from the Police. Eliot will continue with Police, but CBHC according to Aaron Katz – the very goal is to be independent from the police. Clinicians will not be with the Police.

Jordan Avery asked Adriana Paz's opinion. Adriana stated that the bigger issue is that they have not been involved with the discussions with Eliot. She stated that there is an Advisory Board who should be receiving info – didn't hear until 12/20/22. Several months behind closed doors. No discussion with the community. They have to build trust. They did not include any of us in the discussions with Eliot. She feels Eliot has caused trauma for black and brown people. They had a program to make independent. Will the community trust enough to call – we're hearing on our end NO.

Jordan Avery stated that we as a Commission should discuss and/or figure out a game plan to have a voice for our black and brown residents.

Faustina stated that the reason the city wanted to do as a hybrid program was that they would have to be accountable to the city and the Community Advisory Board, and city

staff. Eliot technical staff want to work with the community. They got the money and it is happening now. We want to hold them accountable. Jordan Avery asked how can the city hold a private company accountable when the funding went directly to them. Faustina mentioned the MOU, and that it was a legal document.

Adriana Paz stated that they were not involved. Community investors could ask questions.

Chairperson Jimenez stated that there is a lot of work to be done. If the Human Rights Commission can help, please reach out. We are the voices of the community that are already assembled. Faustina responded that if any members have comments or thoughts, to please call her or email her. She will continue to keep the Lynn Human Rights Commission up to date.

Adriana Paz stated mental and behavioral health – lots of information – troubling information. The main concern is that are we causing more trauma to our people. If people don't use it, it will not be successful. Adriana stated that her group is going to keep working and be advocates for what is best for our community.

Chairperson Jimenez stated that she is excited if the Human Rights Commission could play as an Advisory Committee.

Debra Brandy said she has concerns also regarding the negative comments about Eliot. Chairperson Jimenez asked Adriana is she had data from Eliot. Adriana Paz stated that her group was putting in a public records request. She wants everything to be out in the open. She also mentioned that Eliot doesn't have the best response time and that they are quick to involve the police.

Chairperson Jimenez asked what we want the HRC to do ... look for equity ... look where there is no equity. She told members this was food for thought. Adriana Paz stated that we are experts in our own experiences in Life.

Chairperson Jimenez asked Hunter Richard to send out the Human Rights Commission chart and at the next meeting she will ask members what their number one priority for the Commission would be for the coming year.

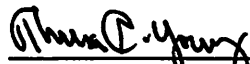
Cristen Recinos had questions regarding the cancellation of meetings. Attorney Wellock stated that now that the Commission has its full members, the Commission will have enough members to conduct a meeting even if they are short one or two members.

Attorney Wellock stated that this was the first meeting of the year, and that the Commission should vote for Chairperson. **Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Adriana Paz to table the nomination of Chairperson to the next meeting.**

Motion carried.

Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Brandy Rodriguez to adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED.



Theresa C. Young, Clerk