

CITY OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

LYNN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Jordan Avery
Debra Brandy
Omozee Idusuyi
Nicole McClain
Jeffrey Oliver
Adriana Paz



Cristian Recinos
Hunter Richard
Brandy Rodriguez

Attorney James Wellock
Theresa C. Young, Clerk

Audrey Jimenez, Chairperson

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022 5:00 P.M. - Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Chairperson Audrey Jimenez, Jordan Avery, Debra Brandy, Omozee Idusuyi, Nicole McClain, Adriana Paz, Cristian Recinos, Hunter Richard, and Brandy Rodriguez,

Members Not Present: Jeffrey Olivier

Others Present: Attorney James Wellock and Terry Young, Clerk

Chairperson Jimenez introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Cristian Recinos.

Chairperson Jimenez also congratulated Nicole McClain who was chosen for the "Lynn Item Person of the Year in Lynn" Award.

Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Hunter Richard to accept the Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022.

Roll Call

8 YES, Jeffrey ABSENT, Christen ABSTAINED

Motion carried.

Introduction of Norris Guscott, Coordinator of Public Health and Food Security Task Force Leader, City of Lynn

Mr. Guscott gave an overview of his position. He talked about the Task Force and the fact that food insecurity increased 110%. He stated that Lynn was the first municipality that utilized the guidelines of the CDC, MDPH and Governor Baker to enable Lynn to hold regular socially distant Farmer Markets during COVID-19. He also spoke of the partnership between Lynn Community Health Center and the Phoenix Food Hub. He also mentioned that GLSS has offered their property at 88 Silsbee Street. They are hoping to open up in the Fall or maybe sooner. Adriana Paz inquired about the data and what would be a priority. Mr. Guscott stated that based on priority, residents foster relationship with food in healthy ways. It is geared toward insecure food families. Need feedback from the community. Brandy Rodriguez asked how would local agencies refer. Mr. Guscott stated that there will be a dedicated phone line. He stated that different agencies can refer, call, and email. Chairperson Jimenez asked if it was for Lynn residents only. Mr. Guscott stated that Lynn residents are preference and Lynn residents first. Chairperson Jimenez asked how the Human Rights Commission could help. Mr. Norris stated that the Commission can help by telling Lynn residents it is coming. To continue to have a dialog with the Lynn Health Center. Chairperson Jimenez thanked Mr. Guscott for sharing his information with the Board.

Discussion of Ordinance and Suggested Modifications from Hunter Richard and Adriana Paz:

Hunter Richard and Adriana Paz updated members on the work they have been doing. Adriana Paz stated that she is looking for feedback. Hunter Richard shared the Chart (Chart Attached) stating that the area in blue were changes that have not been approved; the area in green are changes that have been approved. There were major changes in the Membership Guidelines i.e., 16 members, with 13 voting members, 2 non-voting members and the city Attorney. Two of the members to be voted by the Lynn Human Rights Commission. Three Year Terms. Hunter Richard and Adriana Paz stated that they will continue to work with Attorney Wellock to see what should be in the Ordinance.

Adriana Paz stated that in regards to the membership, she and Hunter worked hard to come up with a balance in recognizing the Mayor and the City Council to maintain their ability to appoint members. Chairperson Jimenez asked about the status of appointing students and that this should be included. Adriana Paz stated that this was part of the sub-committees. Chairperson Jimenez stated that this is a great opportunity for the students.

Motion made by Nicole McClain and seconded by Hunter Richard to accept changes.

Roll Call

8 YES, Jeffrey ABSENT, Christen ABSTAINED

Motion carried.

Adriana Paz stated that these need to be on paper, add to the Ordinance and inform Attorney Wellock that these are changes that the Commission want to pursue. Nicole McClain stated that we need to break down the barriers. Adriana Paz stated that some of the changes concern access. People should be able to go online, it should be in multiple languages, and the Commission should have a separate mailbox. We need to build confidence and trust for people to come to us.

Nicole McClain asked what if the Commission received a complaint involving the police. Chairperson Jimenez stated that the Ordinance does not allow the Commission to act on it and that the Commission must step back. We can't handle anything regarding police matters. Jordan Avery stated that maybe we should start handling police complaints. Adriana Paz stated that this is one of the topics to be involved and have a say. We should discuss the New State Police Reform Bill. Adriana stated it is a collaborative effort and it hasn't happened yet, but will be up next. Discussion was held regarding police matters – to make sure the conversation is happening. Chairperson Jimenez asked what is the status of the Lynn Racial Justice Group in shaping reform with the Lynn Police. Adriana Paz stated that the Human Rights Commission will be part of the conversation and partner with the Lynn Racial Justice Group. Chairperson Jimenez stated that she agrees and to get procedural first. Jordan Avery stated that the Commission should send the stakeholders a message that the Human Rights Commission would like to be at the table.

VISION LYNN

Chairperson Jimenez stated that the Steering Committee for Vision Lynn has been selected and that Jordan Avery is on the Committee. Jordan Avery stated that he applied as a resident, however he would be happy to give updates to the Commission.

REMAP Group Update:

Brandy Rodriguez stated that the group has had no follow-up meetings as they are waiting for Mayor Nicholson to settle in. Brandy Rodriguez, Jordan Avery and Jeff Olivier are on the REMAP Group.

OPEN FLOOR

Chairperson Jimenez announced that Mayor Nicholson will be in attendance at the February meeting.

New Business:

Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Brandy Rodriguez that the Human Rights Commission send a letter to the Mayor and Police Chief requesting the Commission to be involved in the ALERT talks.

Further request Attorney Wellock to outline the Human Rights Commission's jurisdiction and if the Commission had jurisdiction or authority to implement changes.

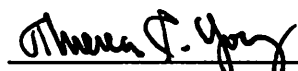
Roll Call:

6 YES, 1 NO (Adriana Paz); Nicole McClain voting PRESENT; Jeffrey Olivier ABSENT; Debra Brandy ABSENT AT VOTE.

Motion carried.

Motion made by Jordan Avery and seconded by Adriana Paz to adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED.



Theresa C. Young, Clerk