



**ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Tuesday, October 13th, 2020

Location: Zoom virtual meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86175968150?pwd=N3h5UGtoODJIRWp6V0NXcHQrb2daUT09>

Time: 6:30-8pm

Meeting Type: Council on Human Rights Monthly Meeting

Attendees: ACHR members: Mary Flaherty, Stephanie Gray, Steve Berdos, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, and Mac Borgellas; Guests: Stanley Estime, Jessica Reagan Salzman, Xenia Smith, and Linda Walker Hill; Chairperson: Laurie Sawyer.

1. Chairperson Laurie Sawyer greets guests/call the meeting to order
 - a. The meeting is no longer done via webinar, but as a meeting so that we have the ability to see our guests.
 - b. In an effort to incorporate some of the rules outlined by ADCC chair Bill Bowles in the last meeting, the agenda and meeting will be more formal and orderly. We will encourage time limits and more voting, while at the same time encourage discussion and collaboration.
2. **VOTE:** Approve minutes from 8/31 special meeting and 9/8 monthly meeting.
 - a. YAY: Mary Flaherty, Stephanie Gray, Steve Berdos, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, and Mac Borgellas.
 - b. NAY: none
3. New format for meeting discussed:
 - I. ONGOING BUSINESS
 - A. Agenda item already voted on
 1. Members tasked with the project provide an update
 2. New “next steps” are outlined to be voted on
 3. Open forum
 4. Record vote
 - II. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Agenda item to vote on
 1. Which members are tasked with this project?
 2. What are the next steps to work on?
 3. When will the council receive an update on progress?

4. Open forum

5. Record vote

III. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

A. Social media update (10 minutes)

B. Possible future events (10 minutes)

C. Discuss future meetings, topics, and guests

4. Press release update

a. Mayor Heroux announced the purchase of two trainings to be administered to all officers within the APD

i. Implicit bias

ii. De-escalation

b. The ACHR offered a quote, of which a portion was included.

5. Updates on anti-racism recommendations

a. Body cameras are being negotiated and therefore we do not have any additional information about this recommendation.

b. The mayor and chief have agreed to make data and training information available. More follow up is needed to disseminate this information to the public.

c. Unclear whether racism will be declared a public health crisis. Barbara will follow up with a public health nurse friend for more supporting documentation on this recommendation.

6. **VOTE:** Write a letter of support for the anti-racism bill proposed by Senator Warren (D-MA), Rep Pressley (D-MA), and Rep Lee (D-CA).

a. If passed, the bill would establish a National Center for Anti-Racism and a Law Enforcement Violence Prevention Program at the Center for Disease Control.

b. Stephanie will begin drafting the letter of support and send to the rest of the council to collaborate and make edits.

c. The letter's audience will be senators and congresspeople working on the bill. The letter will be sent to the mayor, city council, and school committee to review and collaborate if desired.

d. YAY: Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, Mac Borgellas, Stephanie Gray, Laurie Sawyer, Steve Berdos

e. NAY: none

7. **VOTE:** Add QR code to outreach materials

a. Ashley's friend graciously agreed to produce a card with artwork, a QR code, and a message for the council to distribute. The purpose of this is to add to our collection of outreach materials.

b. Ashley will add the council webpage URL to the QR card

c. YAY: Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, Mac Borgellas, Stephanie Gray, Laurie Sawyer

8. Guest introductions:

a. Linda Walker Hill

b. Xenia Smith

c. Jessica Reagan Salzman

9. Change in monthly meeting time

a. A few city councilors have expressed interest in attending a meeting. We will consider an alternative monthly meeting time to accommodate the city council's Tuesday schedule

- b. Stephanie will send out a poll to members to determine if a change in meeting time is possible.
10. Laurie spoke with Councilor DeSimone who expressed her goals to:
 - a. Employ more people of color in roles and leadership positions at city hall
 - b. Empower people of color to run for city council and elected office in Attleboro
11. Housing concerns forum
 - a. As new above average market rate homes and apartment buildings are built throughout Attleboro, there is concern that housing in the city will become less affordable.
 - b. Proposed: discussion of potential impacts to the city's homeless population, senior citizens, racial minorities, and low-income folks.
 - c. What programs are available to provide marginalized people access to mortgage loans and affordable housing?
 - d. What considerations are being made to ensure that marginalized populations will not be displaced as a result of rising housing costs in Attleboro?
 - e. City Councilor Ty Waterman is interested in working on this with the council.
12. Stanley Estime asks if is enough being done to protect residents from COVID-19 transmission within the community
13. **VOTE** – A motion for the council to observe Human Rights Day on Thu, December 10th
 - a. YAY: Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark, Ashley Stewart, Mac Borgellas, Stephanie Gray, Laurie Sawyer
 - b. NAY: none
 - c. Mary will work on ideas to be voted on at Nov 10 meeting
14. Update on Stephanie's conversation with APL Librarian Amy Rhilinger re: Neighbors in Dialogue anti-racism forum
 - a. Discussed our role as a council, what we've been working on, what the community can expect from us re: the incident report form, and our goal to engage the community more meaningfully.
 - b. Six additional Neighbors in Dialogue anti-racism discussions are being planned to begin again in December. New small group leaders will be recruited and trained.
15. Barbara announced the Murray Universalist Unitarian Church's Black Lives Matter vigil on Friday, October 16th from 5-6pm.
16. Motion to end the meeting

Action Items:

- Stephanie will begin drafting the letter of support for the anti-racism bill and send to the rest of the council to collaborate and make edits.
- Ashley will add the council webpage URL to the QR card.
- Stephanie will send out a poll to members to determine if a change in meeting time is possible.
- Mary will work on ideas in recognition of Human Rights Day to be voted on at Nov 10 meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10th from 6:30-8pm