



# ATTLEBORO COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

## MEETING MINUTES

### MEETING INFORMATION

**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021

**Location:** Zoom virtual

meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86321263412?pwd=Nk10eWgvTlc0dEV3enl6M0o5aDFBZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 2126 3412, Passcode: **509818**

**Time:** 6:30-8pm

**Meeting Type:** Council on Human Rights Monthly Meeting

**Attendees:** ACHR members: Jessica Reagan Salzman, Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark, and Stephanie Gray. Laurie Sawyer, Chairperson.

Chairperson Laurie Sawyer opened the meeting

- I. Explanation of zoom fraud at last month's meeting. We will be using the city zoom account from now on since the Conservation Commission went back to meeting in person.
- II. **VOTE:** to approve meeting minutes from July 21, 2021 meeting
  - A. **YAY:** Laurie Sawyer, Stephanie Gray, Steve Berdos, Mary Flaherty, Barbara Clark, Jessica Reagan Salzman
  - B. **NAY:** none
- III. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Housing concerns
    - i. On Aug 9, Mayor Heroux announced a \$500k program for rental/mortgage relief funds to be made available for qualifying Attleboro residents. The funds are available through \$9.5m in federal funding made available to Attleboro for pandemic relief.
    - ii. Credit workshop
      1. In person vs virtual
      2. Shareable links/info should be made available for individuals who do not have zoom capability for a virtual meeting or ability to attend an in-person meeting.
      3. How do we advertise to target population?
        - a. Janet Richardi, Sarah Angelovski at APS/Be Heard, AAIC, Attleboro Housing Authority, food pantries, Attleboro VNA, Sturdy Hospital, Rev Larson Senior Center, YMCA, GATRA bus stop, MBTA train stations, city councilors
      4. Host workshop utilizing Neighborworks or American Credit Counseling

- 5. Next step: schedule next special meeting on housing to plan workshop
- B. Know Your Rights training – joint event with the Attleboro Commission on Disabilities. Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 7pm, virtual
- C. Human Rights Day 2021 – Friday, December 10, 2021
  - i. Look out for UN to release theme
  - ii. Identify guest speakers to invite
  - iii. Plan structure of event
- D. Annual Report
  - i. Fix spelling edits
  - ii. Add Sun Chronicle and Armenian Weekly articles
  - iii. Laurie to send to Mayor Heroux and the City Council by next week
- E. Bylaws – Barbara checked with Juliet Teixeira, she does not recall ACHR bylaws outside of the ordinance, which is available on the city website
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Body camera policy recommendations
    - i. **VOTE:** to create a group to compile body camera recommendations to give to Mayor Heroux
      - 1. **YAY:** Laurie Sawyer, Stephanie Gray, Barbara Clark, Mary Flaherty, Jessica Reagan Salzman, and Steve Berdos
      - 2. **NAY:** none
    - ii. Group includes Laurie Sawyer, Stephanie Gray, Barbara Clark, Jessica Reagan Salzman, and Steve Berdos
    - iii. Next step: plan special meeting to compile recommendations
- V. STANDING AGENDA
  - A. Social media update: monthly meeting post on Facebook is not auto-posting, Mary will troubleshoot
- VI. OPEN FORUM
  - A. Afghan refugees: Steve Berdos is volunteering with a non-profit to resettle refugees from Afghanistan. He will share this information with the council if anyone wants to participate as well.
  - B. Immigration rights discussion
    - i. Mayor Heroux once discussed getting a sign for the highway that says Attleboro is a welcoming city for immigrants
    - ii. Laurie will check with him to see if that is still happening
- VII. **VOTE:** End meeting
  - A. **YAY:** Laurie Sawyer, Stephanie Gray, Jessica Reagan Salzman, Mary Flaherty
  - B. **NAY:** none

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1. Stephanie will email to arrange special meeting on housing concerns and body camera policy recommendations
- 2. Laurie will send annual report to Mayor Heroux and the city council when it is completed
- 3. Steve will share Afghan refugee resettlement information with members of the council
- 4. Laurie will ask Mayor Heroux about the welcoming city sign for Attleboro

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 15 from 6:30-8pm