

**City of New Bedford Human Relations Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

A meeting of the Human Relations Commission was held on March 17, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00pm via Zoom. Called to order by Chairwoman Rebeiro at 2:10pm.

Present: Estella Rebeiro, Commissioner & Chairwoman  
Martin Bentz, Commissioner  
Jeffrey Costa, Commissioner  
Maria Rosario, Commissioner

Also Present: Marcelina Pina-Christian, Executive Director

Absent: Marcus Chumack, Commissioner

Minutes from February accepted. Motion Commissioner Bentz. Second Commissioner Rebeiro. Unanimous. Motion Carries.

There was a quorum; Commissioner Costa took minutes.

**Guests**

1. Angela Navarro, a senior at UMD interning with the HRC.

**Executive Director's Report**

1. ED had follow up conversation with John "Buddy" Andrade and sent a letter on March 10th thanking him for being a guest last month at the Feb HRC meeting.
2. ED has had frequent communication with the Mayor's Office on appointments: they are updating records and working toward building a full commission; four (4) new members in process.
3. COVID Equity conversations continue to be discussed daily and several community letters have been sent to Governor Baker and legislators. HRC has signed two: SCCRC and State Equity NOW.
4. Governor Baker has appointed 20 COVID Equity Liaisons for the state. ED obtained contact info for the NB liaison (Jackie Doane) and connected her with the NB COVID Response Corps; she has participated in 2 Zoom meetings thus far. Immediate need is more vaccines and local sites within neighborhoods for equitable access.
5. Boards and Commissions applications are now posted on the HRC City web page for ease of locating and sharing.
6. ED is waiting on permission from parents for essay contest winners to appear on local Cable tv show. To be translated in 4 languages.
7. Commissioner Bentz and ED attended the monthly MA HRC meeting. There are 2 legislative bills on bias crime that need support; looking for a clear definition of "hate

crime” and updating statutes. Commissioner Bentz composed a letter of support from the HRC.

8. ED received completed Ethics Exam certificates for all Commissioners but one.
9. Saturday, March 20th will be a Boards and Commissions training on Know Your Responsibilities
10. ED shared Proclamations from Mayor Mitchell to the Human Rights Day award winners with all commissioners via email.

### **Old Business:**

1. Essay Contest Updates - covered in ED report (see above.)
2. Status of existing and new appointments - ED reported that there are four (4) new appointments in process: Mike Mello, Noah Williams, Edwin Cartahena and a woman of color from BLM named Janesha.
3. City Solicitor’s Response to HRC ordinance questions - ED reported that the Solicitors are overwhelmed with cases and lawsuits and do not have the time to respond to ordinance questions from the HRC submitted in February. Commissioner Costa asked what is the timeline then for the HRC to receive a reply. Commissioner Costa asked ED for the name and number of the contact person in the Solicitor’s Office in order to follow through.
4. Vaccine Equity - The COVID vaccine will be available in NB to anyone who wants it by April 19, 2021.

### **Complaints:**

ED will send emails re: two complaints already referred to MCAD:

1. ADA complaint from an injured firefighter/ city employee
2. Complaint re: unfair treatment of man let go from Titleist was referred to the AGO fair labor division
3. Alma Del Mar School - ?

Is there sensitivity, equity, nonviolent communication training in place at any of these locations? ED will contact Human Resources/ Personnel Director, Judith Perkins, to request sensitivity training and budget for training.

### **New Business:**

1. Commissioner Bentz motioned to invite Chief Cordeiro back as a guest of the HRC in anticipation of possible violence following the trial outcome of police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis case of George Floyd. Seconded by Commissioner Costa. Unanimous. Motion carries.
2. Christine Petit will not be invited as a guest as motioned last month.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Costa. Seconded: Commissioner Rosario.  
Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 2:00pm via Zoom.

A true record attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Costa, Commissioner