

**CITY OF NORWALK
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Thomas Mahoney, Chair; Carol Frank; Daisy Franklin;
Julius Gamble; Carol Gavrielidis; Peter Halladay;
Jo Bennet (6:34 p.m.); Yvonne Rodriguez (6:41 p.m.)

STAFF: Anna Keegan, Acting Director;
Darlene Young, Program Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mahoney called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 15, 2019

- ** **MS. FRANK MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
- ** **MR. HALLADAY SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. FRANK AND MR. GAMBLE)**

Ms. Bennet joined the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Mahoney thanked everyone for allowing him to chair the Commission as well as for their collaboration and service.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Rodriguez joined the meeting at 6:1 p.m.

Ms. Keegan's written report dated September 19, 2019 is as follows:

Good evening and thank you all for coming out this evening for our annual meeting.

Statistics:

Department statistics are attached to this report. In August, of the department's 53 new intakes, 4 were related to the Human Relations Commission. Of the Department's 253 follow-up contacts, 85 were related to the Human Relations Commission.

Commission Members and Departmental Staff

We currently have no vacancies on the Commission.

ADA Update

A recent accessibility survey of ten local schools which were not included in the initial ADA Compliance and Transition Plan is nearly complete, and Darlene and I will be meeting with them tomorrow to discuss their findings and priorities. Additionally, after making some changes, the Ordinance Committee has voted to send a plastic straw ordinance to the Common Council. The current proposed ordinance aims to reduce plastic straw use by only allowing straws to be given out if a customer asks for them or at the request of a customer. The current ordinance also accounts for the needs of people with disabilities by requiring all restaurants to keep plastic straws on hand, so that people who need plastic straws to eat or drink, will easily have access to them. The Common Council will be looking at that ordinance at its October 8th meeting, and I would encourage any of you who are interested to come out in support of the ordinance.

Departmental Priorities

In addition to keeping up with the current investigations and routine intakes and responses on behalf of the Fair Rent and Human Relations Commissions, our office is also working on the following projects on behalf of the Human Relations Commission: 1. Anti-homelessness initiatives of Opening Doors of Fairfield County; 2. Administering projects under the ADA Compliance and Transition Plan; 3. Monitoring progress towards the goals set out in the City's Language Access Plan; and 4. International Human Rights Day programs.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anna t. Keegan
Acting Director

CASE UPDATES

There were no case updates presented this evening.

PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Report from Fair Housing Advisory Commission Representative

Ms. Franklin said yesterday's Sexual Harassment Prevention Training was well attended.

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B. IHR Day Committee Update

Ms. Young reported that she and Ms. Keegan will start contacting speakers from the re-entry and justice system. The event will take place during the second week of December. Ms. Keegan added that she has some contacts and hopes to have some good things that people will be able to take action on.

C. ADA Committee Update

Ms. Young reported that she and Ms. Keegan will be meeting with a consultant tomorrow to conduct an assessment of the 10 schools. They had a positive response the mat at the beach. Mr. Mahoney said the department and Commission have done a really good work.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on the Rainbow Crosswalk

Ms. Keegan reported that the rainbow crosswalk will be a four-way crosswalk near Mathews Park. There was discussion about the type of crosswalk and the price. The material that will be used is very sturdy and there is no need for touch up for 5 – 10 years. A regular crosswalk would require touch up in six months.

Ms. Frank said the crosswalk was a long time coming. Ms. Young added that this is a better and safer material than is currently at the location.

B. Report from Nominating Committee

Mr. Mahoney announced the slate of officers put forward by the Nominating Committee:

Chair	Carol Frank
Vice Chair	Daisy Franklin
Secretary	Peter Halladay

Mr. Mahoney asked if there were any other nominations.

Ms. Frank nominated Ms. Franklin as Chair. Ms. Franklin declined the nomination.

C. Election of Officers

**** MR. MAHONEY NOMINATED MS. FRANK AS CHAIR
** MS. GAVRIELIDIS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Frank said this is an important commission and thanked everyone for attending. She asked Commissioners to let Jasmine know early in the day if they are unable to attend a meeting.

**** MR. MAHONEY NOMINATED MS. FRANKLIN AS VICE CHAIR**

There were no other nominations from the Floor.

**** MR. GAMBLE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Franklin thanked the Commissioners and said she hoped to serve the Commission well.

**** MR. MAHONEY NOMINATED MR. HALLADAY AS SECRETARY**

There were no other nominations from the Floor.

**** MS. RODRIGUEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Mahoney congratulated the new Officers.

Ms. Young congratulated everyone and said it is unusual to get people to be so committed. She said the department has been down a person and Ms. Keegan has done a fantastic job managing everything. She said they are basically a community service department and they are trying to help so many.

Ms. Young reiterated that Ms. Keegan has done a fantastic job and with all of the reorganization asked the Commissioners to be aware and mindful of how the department grows and that there may be a need for more personnel. Mr. Mahoney said they were aware and agreed that all of the community services and outreach can not be done by one person. He expressed his appreciation for all the hard work being done.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. FRANK MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MR. HALLADAY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

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