



Somerville Human Rights Commission

August 12, 2010

HRC Monthly Public Meeting

6:30pm at the Somerville Super Stop and Shop,

Community Room (2nd Floor), 775 McGrath Hwy, Somerville

Notes: Prepared by Sonja Darai

Commissioners in Attendance

Ashraf Hegazy –Co-chair

Barry Rafkind –Co-chair

John Robinson

Attending Participants

Patrick Hart

Lince Semerzier

Deepinder Mayell

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan

Eileen Feldman

Chenet Magloire

Staff Attendance

Sonja Darai – Director, Office of Somerville Commissions (OSC)

Open Meeting Law

New law requires 48 hours minimum notice to the City Clerk for meetings.

Decisions must be held at meeting with quorum and open meeting to public.

Ask City Clerk specific tasks, related to everyday management decisions and confidential cases, that can be accomplished outside of open meeting standards.

Executive sessions: must list why meeting is private, must publish minutes unless another statement of reason to keep private.

HRC Case Updates

2010ED02 (employment discrimination): refer resident to Attorney General (loss wages), EEOC, and provide summary of meeting at intake interview.

2010HC01 (hate crime): waiting for investigator's report and recommendations (approximately mid-September)

HRC Steps for Inquiry of Incidents

- 1) Send letter to appropriate ranking official from Commission
 - a. Have you heard of the incident
 - b. What is going on in the case

- c. Provide info:
 - i. Report
 - ii. Specific investigation
 - iii. Status of involved officers
- d. Receive updates
- 2) Request face-to-face meeting with ranking official with Commission and OSC director
- 3) Plan and proceed with Commission Inquiry
 - a. Plan involved commissioners, experts, time table, steps
 - b. Plan possible processes for investigation
 - c. Develop timeline protocol for investigation by ranking official's department (requesting to be allowed to see as follow-up)

Know Your Rights Workshops

- 1) September 2010 Employment Discrimination Workshop by MCAD
 - a. Participants:
 - John Robinson
 - Deepinder Mayell
 - Raffi Freedman-Gurspan
 - Ashraf Hegazy
 - Patrick Hart
 - Lince Semerzier
 - Sonja Darai
 - Chenet Magloire
 - 2) Forthcoming Topics:
 - a. Housing
 - b. Immigration
 - c. Domestic Violence

Deadly Force Case of July 2010

Evaluation insufficient for true assessment
 Middlesex County investigation
 CAAS liaison to family for possible HRC case
 Public review process

MLK Jr Day Event

Propose that there be a unified committee owning the event together.
 Select co-chairs from the committee to facilitate task management.

Possible Committee Agencies:

- Welcome Project
- Parent Info Center
- Som/Cambridge Elder Services
- Human Rights Commission
- Red Cross
- Vista Volunteers
- Haitian Coalition
- Centro Presente
- Women's Commission
- Librarians
- Hope Fellowship Church
- CAAS

The next monthly public meeting of the Human Rights Commission will be September 9, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Somerville Super Stop and Shop, Community Room (2nd Floor), 775 McGrath Hwy, Somerville