



Human Rights Commission Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Location: City Council Chamber
 - B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83935116963>
 - C. This meeting will be televised on WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
 - D. Public may comment through email: dnewton@watertown-ma.gov
 - E. Please visit the Human Rights Commission Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/1195/Human-Rights-Commission>
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- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. Minutes 1.15.25
- 4. Discussion
 - A. Democracy Talks Event on February 19th
 - B. Future Human Rights Day & Juneteenth Events
 - C. Massachusetts Human Rights Commission & International Association of Human Rights Agencies
 - D. Distribution of Brochure/Know Your Rights Cards
 - E. MassCOSH Teens Lead at Work Program
 - F. Sponsoring Book Event with WFPL: Loretta Ross Livestream on April 2nd
 - G. Reaching Out to Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)
- 5. Municipal Policy Analyst's Report
 - A. HRC Rules of Procedure/Complaint Procedure
 - B. Action Plan
- 6. Public Comment
- 7. Adjournment

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025

1. Call to Order

Sarah Zoen called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

Doug Newton called the roll. Present were Corey Barr, Elizabeth Brusie, Sarah Zoen, Mel Poindexter, Xin Peng, Susan Musinsky, and Liz Aeschlimann. Gabriel Camacho and Lisa LaPlante were present via zoom.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes for December meeting

Sarah Zoen made a motion, seconded by Mel Poindexter, that the minutes be approved as written. Susan Musinsky noted that the minutes did not reflect her attendance and made a motion, seconded by Sarah Zoen, that they do so. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Discussion

a. January 20th Unity Breakfast

The Commission discussed who would be attending the breakfast and that they would have a table for the HRC.

b. Partner with World in Watertown on Safe Space Project

There were no updates on this project and the HRC will be on standby for updates as to how it can assist.

c. Drinking Water as a Human Right

This item was referred to the subcommittee on the HRC Action Plan for further consideration.

d. Democracy Talks Event on February 19th

Corey Barr shared that this event will take place and that a flier has been created. Human Rights Commissioners were encouraged to attend.

e. Future Human Rights Day Event

The possibility of the HRC leading an event on Human Rights Day in December as well as an event on Juneteenth was discussed. The Commission expressed interest in doing so and this topic was continued to future meetings.

f. Future Workshop with Watertown Public Schools

Commissioners discussed several possibilities, including a podcast series. Commission liaison from the public schools Dr. Ceronne Daly suggested that the podcast space within WPS is a great space to use. She added that she has identified a group of students who are interested in forming an advisory council. She will be presenting this idea to the school committee and following up with the HRC.

- g. Massachusetts Association of Human Rights Commissions & International Association of Human Rights Agencies
Susan Musinsky shared a summary of her attending the Massachusetts Association of Human Rights Commissions. Discussion was wide-ranging and included MLK day events and music.
- 5. Committee Reports
 - a. Rules Committee
The Committee presented the final draft of its rules of procedure as well as its complaint procedure. These will need to be approved by the City Attorney prior to taking effect. The Commission voted unanimously to approve both pending review.
 - b. Immigrant Rights Committee
The Commission discussed the statement drafted by Xin Peng and edited by several Commissioners. Dr. Ceronne Daly also made proposed edits to the statement. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the statement for distribution on the HRC website and at the Unity Breakfast.
- 6. Public Comment
No member of the public offered comment.
- 7. Adjournment
The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM.

DEMOCRACY ★ TALKS

BY THE WATERTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Illustration for WBUR series by Lily Qian

A MIGRANT FAMILY'S SEARCH FOR HOME IN MA

**WED,
FEB. 19 | 7 PM
ZOOM**



Join WBUR journalist Simón Rios as he shares his journey reporting on the plight of migrants in MA amidst changing shelter policies and shifting political climate. Rios is an award-winning bilingual reporter at WBUR.

Co-presented with the City of Watertown's Human Rights Commission.

Registration is required. Visit the WFPL Reference Desk or watertownlib.org/events.

ARABIC

لا تخاف!

رسالة من جستن هانر هان رئيس شرطة واترتون

أصدقائي الأعزاء:

ان قسم شرطة واترتون موجود لخدمتك وحمايتك، ولخدمة جميع افراد المجتمع هنا، بغض النظر عن المكان الذي جنّت منه، أو من وضع الهجرة الخاص بك.

إذا شعرت انت، أو شخص تعرفه بعدم الأمان، أو كنت بحاجة الى مساعدة، فلا تخف أبداً من طلب المساعدة من شرطة واترتون!

- لن نسأل عن وضع الهجرة الخاص بك.
- لن ندعم الطلبات من (ICE) لاحتجازك.
- لن نقوم باعطاء معلومات حولك لأي مكتب حكومي بناءاً على وضع الهجرة الخاص بك، أو هويتك الجنسية، أو معتقداتك الدينية، أو السياسية.
- لن نشارك في حملة مدامات المهاجرين المدنيين
- نحن ليسنا وكلاء (ICE).
- عند قيادة سيارة، تأكد من أنك تحمل ترخيصاً صالحاً! نتيح لك رخص القيادة الأجنبية القيادة في ولاية ماساشوستس لمدة تصل الى عام واحد بعد دخول البلاد.

نحن نتطلع الى خدمتك.

مع اخلاصنا،

Chief Justin Hanrahan

في حالة الطوارئ، اتصل بالرقم 911 وقل "HELP" لاتغلق الخط، قل أين تحدث حالة الطوارئ، والعنوان اذا كنت تعرفه، سيكون المترجمون متاحون للمساعدة، قل "ARABIC".

SPANISH

No tenga miedo!

Un mensaje del Jefe de Policía de Watertown, Justin Hanrahan

Queridas Amigas y Queridos Amigos:

El Departamento de Policía de Watertown está aquí para servir y proteger a usted, y a todos los miembros de nuestra comunidad, sin importar de dónde venga o su estado migratorio.

Si usted, o alguien que usted conoce, se siente inseguro o necesita ayuda, ¡jamás tenga miedo de pedir ayuda a la policía de Watertown!

- No le preguntaremos sobre su estado migratorio;
- No atenderemos las solicitudes de ICE para detenerlo;
- Jamás crearemos registros de personas que las clasifiquen según su estado migratorio, identidad sexual, o creencias religiosas o políticas;
- No participaremos en redadas civiles de inmigrantes;
- NO somos agentes de ICE.
- Cuando conduzca un vehículo, asegúrese de llevar una licencia de conducir válida. Las licencias de conducir de otros países le permiten conducir en Massachusetts por sólo un año después de ingresar al país.

Esperamos poderle servir.

Sinceramente,

Chief Justin Hanrahan

En caso de emergencia, llame al 911. Quede en la línea. Diga la ubicación de la emergencia y las direcciones si las sepa. Diga "HELP" y explique lo que está pasando. Intérpretes estarán disponibles. Pida "SPANISH"

Additional Resources

ParentChild+ Program at Cunniff School, 246 Warren Street, Watertown. Free home visits and language help for children 16 months to 3 years, plus support for parents. Call 617 926 6699 or email linda.krieger@watertown.k12.ma.us

Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist provides free help to find counseling services, food, housing, and other needs. Call 617-744-9585.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at Sacred Heart Church, 770 Mt. Auburn St. Watertown. Offers free food Thursdays 10–11:45AM. Call 617-926-9680.

Watertown Community Fridge at Belmont-Watertown United Methodist Church, 80 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Accepts donations and provides free food for those in need 24/7. www.watertowncommunityfridge.org

Watertown Food Pantry at Belmont-Watertown United Methodist Church, 80 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Offers free food. Call 617-972-6490 for hours of operation.

Project Literacy at Watertown Free Public Library, Second Floor, 123 Main Street, Watertown. Free English language classes and tutoring for adults. Call 617-924-8797.

Drug Addiction Help at MGH Bridge Clinic, 100 Blossom St. Boston. Call 617-643-8281.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice fights discrimination against people of color and immigrants. Call 617-482-1145. www.lawyerscom.org

MA Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition at 105 Chauncy St. #901, Boston. Protects immigrant and refugee rights and helps them integrate. Call 617-350-5480. www.miracoalition.org

Watertown Human Rights Commission works to ensure that all persons in Watertown enjoy equal opportunity, without prejudice. Serves as a resource for persons concerned about discrimination. www.watertown-ma.gov/1195/Human-Rights-Commission

Watertown Police Department's In-house Clinician provides emergency support and access to additional services. Call 617-600-1312.

As part of its community outreach efforts, the **Watertown Police Department** has published this brochure in collaboration with the **Watertown Human Rights Commission**.

Don't be afraid!
No tenga miedo!

ترس نداشته باشید!

Não tenha medo!
لا تخاف!

Ou pa bezwen pè!



*A Message from Watertown
Police Chief Justin Hanrahan
in six languages*



Find out more at
www.watertownpd.org
or call 617-972-6500

ENGLISH

Don't be afraid!

A Message from Watertown Police Chief Justin Hanrahan

Dear Friends:

The Watertown Police Department is here to serve and protect you, and all members of our community, no matter where you come from or your immigration status.

If you, or someone you know, feels unsafe or needs help, never be afraid to ask for help from the Watertown Police!

- We will not ask about your immigration status;
- We will not honor requests from ICE to detain you;
- We will not provide information about you to any government registry based solely on your immigration status, gender identity, or religious or political beliefs;
- We will not participate in civil immigration raids;
- We are NOT ICE agents.
- When driving a motor vehicle, be sure you carry a valid license! Foreign driver's licenses allow you to drive in Massachusetts for up to one year after entering the country.

We look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Chief Justin Hanrahan

In case of emergency call 911. Do not hang up. Say "HELP" Say where the emergency is happening and the address if you know it. Say what is wrong.

PORTUGUESE

Não tenha medo!

Uma mensagem do Chefe de Polícia de Watertown, Justin Hanrahan

Prezadas Amigas e Prezados Amigos:

O Departamento de Polícia de Watertown está aqui para servir e proteger você, bem como todos os membros de nossa comunidade, sem importar de onde você venha ou seu status migratório.

Se você, ou alguém que você conheça, sente-se inseguro ou precisa de ajuda, jamais tenha medo de pedir ajuda à polícia de Watertown!

- Nós não perguntaremos sobre seu status migratório;
- Nós não atenderemos solicitações do ICE para detê-los;
- Nós não forneceremos informação sobre você para qualquer registro governamental baseado apenas em seu status migratório, identidade de gênero ou crenças religiosas ou políticas;
- Nós não participaremos de batidas civis de imigração;
- Nós NÃO somos agentes do ICE.
- Quando dirigindo um veículo motorizado, assegure-se de portar uma Carteira de Motorista válida. Carteiras de Motorista emitidas no exterior permitem que você dirija em Massachusetts pelo período de até um ano após sua entrada no país.

Esperamos poder servir você.

Sinceramente,

Chief Justin Hanrahan

Em caso de emergência disque 911. Ao atenderem não desligue. Diga "HELP" e qual o seu problema. Informe sua localização. Tradutores estão disponíveis. Peça "PORTUGUESE"

FARSI

ترس نداشته باشید!

پیامی از جستن هانر هان، رئیس پلیس و اترتاون

دوستان عزیز،

اداره پلیس و اترتاون حاضر به خدمت و آماده محافظت از شماست، صرف نظر از اینکه از کجا آمده اید و یا وضعیت مهاجرتی شما چیست.

اگر شما و یا کسی از شما آشنایان شما احساس ناامنی می کنید و یا به کمک ما احتیاج دارید، بدون هیچ واهمه ای با اداره پلیس و اترتاون تماس بگیرید.

- ما جویای وضعیت مهاجرتی شما نخواهیم بود،
- ما درخواست های اداره مهاجرت (ICE) را برای بازداشت شما نخواهیم پذیرفت،
- ما هیچ گونه اطلاعاتی راجع به وضعیت مهاجرتی شما، یا هویت جنسی شما، و یا باورهای مذهبی و گرایش های سیاسی شما به هیچ آژانس دولتی ارائه نخواهیم کرد،
- ما در عملیاتی که به نقض حقوق مدنی شما منجر شود مشارکت نخواهیم کرد،
- ما مامورین اداره مهاجرت (ICE) نیستیم،
- هنگام رانندگی حتما گواهینامه معتبر رانندگی با خود همراه داشته باشید. در ایالت ماساچوستس گواهینامه رانندگی بین المللی به مدت یک سال بعد از ورود به آمریکا معتبر است.

ما مشتاقانه منتظر خدمت به شما هستیم.

ارادتمند،

Chief Justin Hanrahan

در مواقع اضطراری با شماره 911 تماس گرفته و بگویید "HELP" و "FARSI". مترجمان فارسی زبان به شما پاسخ خواهند داد.

HAITIAN CREOLE

Ou pa bezwen pè!

Se yon mesaj Chèf Lapolis Watertown nan Justin Hanrahan

Zanmi mwen yo:

Depatman Lapolis nan Watertown la pou sèvi w ak pwoteje w ansanm ak tou manb kiminote nou an, kèlkeswa kote w sòti oubyen sitiyasyon imigrasyon w.

Si ou menm, oubyen yon moun ou rekonèt, santi li pa an sekirite oubyen bezwen èd, pa janm pè mande Lapolis Watertown èd!

- Nou pap poze w kesyon sou sitiyasyon imigrasyon w;
- Nou pap arete w menm si ICE mande nou;
- Nou pap bay okenn enfòmasyon sou ou a okenn lòt ajans gouvènmanal ki gen rapò sèlman a sitiyasyon imigrasyon w, idantite seksyèl ou, oubyen kwayans politik oubyen relijyez ou.
- Nou pap patisipe nan okenn arestasyon imigrasyon sivil
- Nou PA ajan ICE.
- Lè wap kondwi yon veyikil a motè, asire w ou gen yon lisans ki valid! Lisans etranje pèmèt ou kondwi nan Massachusetts pandan yon lane apre ou fin rantre nan peyi a.

Nou enpasyan pou ede w.

Kòdyalman,

Chief Justin Hanrahan

Nan yon ijans rele 911. Pa rakwoche. Di kote ou ye ya; Di "HELP" e saki genyen yan. Entèprèt yo disponib. Di "KREYÒL"