



Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on July 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM. Location: ZOOM ONLY
 - B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/84260005950>
 - C. Public may comment through email: dnewton@watertown-ma.gov
 - D. 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 for Special Meeting on Human Rights Commission Statements
- 4. Election of Temporary Chair
- 5. Discussion of Republic Strike
 - A. Draft Statement on Republic Strike
 - B. Draft Generic Statement for Quick Deploy
- 6. Public Comment
- 7. Adjournment

The Watertown Human Rights Commission recognizes the demands of IBT Local 25, representing 400 workers who provide essential waste and recycling collection services, who are currently on strike and demanding a fair livable wage, improved health care, and other work benefits and protections. The WHRC recognizes that these demands are supported by international human rights law which establish a right to a livable wage and basic humane working conditions (e.g. Article 23(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; The Preamble of the Constitution of the International Labor Organization). Similarly, the WHRC recognizes the right of all citizens of the town to clean sanitation, including waste management. In particular, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/169, adopted in 2015, recognizes the distinct human right to sanitation, including adequate waste management. In light of these internationally recognized human rights, the WHRC urges the government to negotiate fairly with the workers' union to reach a fair and sustainable agreement that aligns with the basic rights of both workers and citizens.

In light of recent events in our community, the Watertown Human Rights Commission reaffirms our commitment to equity, dignity, and safety for all. We understand that such moments can be deeply unsettling, and we encourage anyone in need of support to seek out local resources. You are not alone — we are here to listen, support, and stand with you. For more information about resources, to file issues or complaints with the Human Rights Commission, or to contact the Commission, please visit <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/1195/Human-Rights-Commission>.