



Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7th at 10:00 AM. Location: ZOOM ONLY
 - B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/88479597632>
 - 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 Previous Meeting
- 4. Discussion
 - A. Proposed Edits to HRC Statement in Support of Human Rights for All
 - B. Potential Public Forum on ICE with Watertown Police Department
 - C. HRC Immigrant Justice/Food Justice Event with Library in Fall 2025
 - D. Potential Additional Actions from the HRC in Support of Immigrant Neighbors
- 5. Public Comment
- 6. Adjournment

We are deeply concerned by the recent ICE detentions in Watertown and neighboring communities. We want to reaffirm that the Watertown Human Rights Commission stands in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors and reaffirms our commitment to protecting the human rights, safety, and dignity of all members of our community.

We want to clearly state: In accordance with Massachusetts Law, the Watertown Police Department does not collaborate with ICE to detain individuals based on immigration status. Our community remains committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all. In times like these, we urge residents who are able to offer support: check in on your neighbors, share reliable information, and extend compassion where it is needed.

Together, we can build a community rooted in care, safety, and solidarity. 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>.

If you or someone you know has been affected, we encourage you to access available resources:

- [Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition](#)
- [Luce Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts](#)

Per the conversation during our meeting on Monday, I took a look at the HRC statement on immigrant rights. I would recommend making the following changes:

- Change Title from: "Statement of Support for Human Rights for All" to "Statement on ICE Operations and Impacts on Our Community"
- Change first sentence from: "We are deeply concerned by the recent ICE detentions in Watertown and neighboring communities," to "The Watertown Human Rights Commission is deeply concerned about the exponential increase in ICE detentions across Massachusetts in recent months, including in Watertown and neighborhood communities. In particular, the Commission notes with concern the arbitrary arrest and detention of our neighbors without due process."

Also, I would recommend moving the link to the LUCE website to the top and adding the hotline number. Depending on how resources are listed in other places on our website, I think we should make a more robust list of resources or at least annotate the resources listed here, if needed.

Finally, I would encourage the Commission to consider recommending that the City Council and/or City Manager issue a statement on ICE activity, such as what [other towns have done](#).