



Human Rights Commission Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 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. 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>
-

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Public Comment
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. Minutes 8.11.25
- 5. Funding Request: Indigenous People's Day
 - A. Program Flier- Jennifer Wolfrum of the Pigsgusset Initiative
- 6. Discussion
 - A. Human Rights Commission Logo: Contest with Watertown students
 - B. Human Rights Commission Website
 - C. Human Rights Commission Process for Receiving Feedback
 - D. Promotion of Human Rights Commission among the community
 - E. Watertown Pride 2026
 - F. Faire on the Square 2025
 - G. Watertown Public Schools Youth Summit
 - H. Watertown Cable Access Television Public Service Announcement (PSA) Day- September 19th
 - I. Immigrant Rights Movie: Potential Community Event & Speakers
 - J. Communication with Belmont on Forum on Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - K. Human Rights Commission Complaint Form Revisions
- 7. Public Comment

8. Complaint Form Submission Received
 - A. Xin Peng Complaint
9. Committee Reports
 - A. Action Plan Committee: Approval of minutes; Upcoming focus groups; Work with Liz Peck on Needs Assessment; Stipend Increase for Consultant to accommodate focus group spending
10. Report from Staff Liaison
11. Public Comment
12. Adjournment

Watertown Celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day

Sunday, October 12, 2025

12:00 to 3:30 PM

Hosmer Elementary School
1 Concord Road, Watertown, MA

FREE ADMISSION

Maria Hendricks, Assonet & Mashpee Wampanoag, MC

12:00 - 3:00 **Wampwheels Food Truck:** Indigenous food by DaTanya, *Mashpee Wampanoag*

1:00 - 2:00 **Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers, Wampanoag**

2:00 - 2:30 **Teddy Hendricks, Mashpee Wampanoag & Nipmuc, Storyteller**

2:30 - 3:30 Special Sneak Preview: **Watertown Indigenous History Storymap**

12:00 - 1:00 & 2:30 - 3:30

Darius Coombs, Mashpee Wampanoag, demonstrating wampum creation

Elenor Coombs, Mashpee Wampanoag, creating corn husk dolls

Gianni Hendricks, Mashpee Wampanoag & Nipmuc, face painting

Indigenous crafts and arts: **Claudia Fox Tree, Arawak-Taino iukaieke Guainia,**

Leslie

Tuplin, Linda Coombs, Aquinnah Wampanoag

Books by and about Indigenous people: **Belmont Bookstore**

Bookmobile: **Watertown Free Public Library**

Funded by the Watertown Community Foundation, Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice & the Environment, Stone & Skillet, Hampton Hotel by Hilton, and individual donations. Organized by the Pigsgusset Initiative, a working group of Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment.

Supporters include: Cuniff, Hosmer and Lowell Diversity and Belonging Councils, First Parish Watertown, Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, Watertown Boys and Girls Club, Watertown Free Public Library, Watertown Recreation Department, WHERE ARE ALL THE BLACK PEOPLE?

Sponsor: World in Watertown

Watertown Human Rights Commission

Youth Logo Design Contest - Fall 2025 – Overview

Purpose of the Contest

The Watertown Human Rights Commission (WHRC) is launching a community-engaged logo design contest to invite young people in Watertown to help create a visual identity for the Commission. The goal is to foster civic engagement, build awareness of human rights issues, and invite youth voices into the public sphere.

What is the Watertown Human Rights Commission

The Watertown Human Rights Commission (WHRC), established in 2024, promotes equity, inclusion, and access for all residents. It works to ensure equal opportunity in housing, employment, education, city services, and more—regardless of background or identity. The HRC engages the community through outreach, public forums, education, and dialogue, and supports local organizations in doing equity and human rights work.

Who Can Participate in the Contest

Open to all young people in Watertown, with a focus on middle and high school students.

Submission Guidelines

- Must include the full name: “Watertown Human Rights Commission”
- May reflect themes such as
 - People – diverse, connected, or symbolic
 - The river – a meaningful connector in our community
 - Peace – optional imagery like doves or unity symbols
- Should look good in color and black-and-white
- Designs may be hand-drawn or digitally created.
- Must be effective at different sizes (small and large print)
- Submit on an 8.5” x 11” page (PDF, JPEG, or PNG format)
- Send entries to Doug Newton at dnewton@watertown-ma.gov
- Due Date: October 18th (tentative)
- All applicants give the WHRC official support to use the logo free of charge in future materials. (NEED A LAWYER TO REVIEW THIS)

Key Milestones

- Public Launch: September 8 at WHRC meeting
- School Announcements: Week of September 9–12th - flyers
- In-Person Messaging
 - Saturday, September 13th - Faire on the Square - WHRC booth - flyers
 - **Thursday, September 18th - 5:30 - 7:00** - Open Session at the Watertown Public Library

*Submission Deadline: Wednesday, October 15th - 11:59 PM

* Selection Panel - Late October - Date TBD

*Announcement of Selected Design and Runner-up - Early November

Awards

- \$100 to the winning design
- \$50 to the runner-up
- Chosen design will most likely be featured on official WHRC materials, website, social media, and public-facing documents.

Selection Committee Composition

The WHRC is assembling a small, thoughtful panel to evaluate submissions. The committee will include:

- Local educators/practitioners (art, social studies)
- Artists or graphic designers
- A marketing or branding professional
- WHRC members
- Youth representative(s)

The committee will meet once or twice (virtually or in-person) to review designs and select the winner based on clarity, relevance, creativity, and impact. A rubric will be designed to seek input from the committee.

Why This Matters

This project is an opportunity to:

- Uplift youth voices
- Raise awareness of the WHRC and its mission with youth and families
- Celebrate art, civic participation, and community values

Questions - reach out to Doug Newton at dnewton@watertown-ma.gov

9/4/25

Suggested changes to HRC complaint form:

1. Please note that the Commission cannot guarantee complete confidentiality of those submitting complaints. If you prefer to remain anonymous, please indicate that preference.

Change to: "The Human Rights Commission cannot guarantee your confidentiality. If you want to be anonymous, please check the box below."

2. [BOX] I prefer to remain anonymous

Change to: "I want to be anonymous."

3. The complaint is directed at:

Change to: "Who is this complaint against?"

4. [BOX] A government actor or institution
[BOX] Another private individual

Change to: [BOX] "An organization (ex. government office, corporation, etc.)"
[BOX] "An individual person"

5. If possible, please name, address and phone number of the party against which the complaint is brought:

Change to: "If possible, please provide the name, address and phone number of the organization or person this complaint is about."

6. If a complaint is based on discrimination, indicate the basis:

Change to: "If you believe you were discriminated against, tell us how:"

7. Category of local affairs related to complaint:

Change to: "What was the setting where this happened?"

8. Please briefly describe the facts leading to your complaint:

Change to: "Please briefly tell us what happened."

9. What, if any, steps have you taken to resolve this issue or dispute:

Change to: "Have you taken any steps to resolve this? If yes, what steps?"

Watertown Human Rights Commission Complaint Form

Name: Xin Peng
Pronouns: he/him/his
Address: 179 Edenfield Ave. Watertown
Telephone number: 857 600 9310

Date: 8/19/2015

Please note that the Commission cannot guarantee complete confidentiality of those submitting complaints. If you prefer to remain anonymous, please indicate that preference.

☐ I prefer to remain anonymous

The complaint is directed at:

- ☐ A government actor or institution
☒ Another private individual

If possible, please name, address and phone number of the party against which the complaint is brought:

Not sure since she approached me by a vehicle.

If a complaint is based on discrimination, indicate the basis:

- ☒ Race
☐ Color
☐ Ancestry
☐ National origin
☐ Sex
☐ Sexual Orientation
☐ Gender Identity or expression
☐ Citizenship
☐ Age
☐ Religion
☐ Disability
☐ Health Status
☐ Marital or familial status
☐ Military or veteran status
☐ Socioeconomic status
☐ Ex-offender status
☐ Genetic and/or "protected class" status.
☐ Other _____

Category of Local Affairs Related to Complaint (more than one box may be checked):

- ☐ Housing
☐ Employment
☐ Education
☐ Public Accommodation
☐ Access to City Services
☐ Insurance Credit
☐ Banking
☐ Health Care

☐ Other: _____

Please briefly describe the facts leading to your complaint:

I was walking on Dexter Ave with my friends (one of them also identified as Asian). A woman driving an SUV approached us and yelling that we are CCP propaganda, and made some verbal threats before driving off. This was 5/18/2015 around 11:30 AM.