

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2026

4:00 PM

[Webinar Recording](#)

- I. Call to Order: Sarah Zoen called the meeting to order at 4:20 PM
- II. Roll Call: Present were Corey Barr, Sarah Zoen, Mel Poindexter, Elizabeth Brusie, and Xin Peng (all by Zoom; meeting was offered by remote participation only). Also present was Jenna Bancroft as staff for the Commission.
- III. Public Comment: None
- IV. Update on Immigration Enforcement Actions and Possible Response
 - a. Corey Barr suggested the HRC address decisions made by the Supreme Court regarding Temporary Protective Status (TPS) and Asylum Seekers, as well as uptick in ICE detainments (New York Times article reports 10,000 arrests in the last 5 days).
 - b. Corey Barr provided information regarding an ICE detainment in Watertown on Saturday 6/27 including the work of Rapid Response Network volunteers offering aftercare and other supports. WPD sent the Jail Diversion Co-Response Clinician to respond and offer additional resources/support to the family.
 - c. All participating members reviewed a [statement made by Cambridge City Council](#).
 - d. Mel Poindexter suggested using the Cambridge statement as a template for the HRC.
 - e. Sarah Zoen suggested the meeting continue onto the next agenda items while she drafted a statement to be reviewed and voted on at the end of the meeting.
 - f. As the last item of the meeting, the statement was presented to the participating members; Corey Barr made a motion, seconded by Xin Peng, to approve the statement.
- V. Public Comment
 - a. One member of the public expressed value in highlighting recent ICE activity in Watertown because residents often say they do not know there is a presence in the community. Referencing the incident could educate the public and show the HRC is aware of the uptick in cases.
- VI. Update on Special Education Developments and Community Discussions
 - a. Mel Poindexter asked the participating members for their ideas around how to respond to the recent complaint to the HRC about Watertown Public Schools Special Education.
- VII. Update on Recent Complaint Filed and Next Steps for the HRC

- a. Mel Poindexter shared the complainant has been contacted to confirm receipt and assurance the complaint will be reviewed by HRC for next steps.
- b. Sarah Zoen asked participating members who could take the lead on responding to the recent complaint.
- c. Corey Barr shared she does not have the capacity to take it; need to be clear with complainant about expectations and update rules/regs to reflect Jenna as liaison.
- d. Mel Poindexter suggests waiting until the next meeting to identify the person who will take the complaint. Sarah agrees. Mel will step in if no one else offers on the 13th.
- e. Jenna Bancroft will speak with other staff liaisons to identify ways the HRC can address complaints without convening the entire group.

VIII. Public Comment: None

IX. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

These minutes were prepared by Jenna Bancroft.