



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Human Rights Commission Minutes 10/20/2004**

**Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**October 20, 2004**

**In Attendance:**

**Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Christine Deshler, Kevin McGann, A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney**

**Absent:**

**Cecilia Akuffo, Marlissa Briggett, Kim Lam, James Webster**

**The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.**

**The September minutes were accepted with minor corrections.**

- 1. Patsy Kraemer - introduced Marylynn Carnell as the new secretary for the Commission and reminded the Commission that the budget for next year is due November 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- 2. Complaints - Christine Deshler gave a follow up of complaint against a local pizza place stating that there were two meetings. After the first meeting it was decided that there was no need to make a formal complaint - that the incident could be settled by the parties involved. There was a second meeting a week later. The owner and employee apologized to the family and that helped settle the matter along with an agreement from the owner to offer sensitivity training to all employees. A letter formally closing the case will be signed by Cecilia Akuffo. It was suggested that a recommendation be made to the Chamber of Commerce that the Committee along with the Board of Health work on a flyer with guidelines of human rights issues for future reference. Christine Deshler moved to accept to close this matter and Christine Carney second the motion. There was a unanimous vote by members to accept this recommendation.**
- 3. Bill Shea will seek John Maher's assistance to determine what avenues the Commission has open to it if there is a defendant who will not cooperate regarding the legal aspect of complaints and what the commission can do in future cases of this kind.**

- 4. Candidates Night - Christine Carney will double check that all the candidates (or one of their representatives) will be in**

attendance for "Meet the Candidates" night this coming Monday (October 25<sup>th</sup>) - she is also looking for commitment of the members of the HRC to be there also - there will be an opening statement on Human Rights - Bill Shea will give candidates one minute opportunities to respond to questions - then at an appropriate time will open the meeting up to the audience.

5. **Future Programs** - Christine Carney will follow up on the January event regarding racial profiling - Bill Shea will check with Cecelia Akuffo on "Every Day Hero" program - these topics were tabled until November
  
6. **Complaints and Incidents** - A Commissioner presented a case to the Commission of an incident that occurred at her home on Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> - (broken windows and frame by means of rock) - she dismissed herself from the discussion so members could freely speak about the incident - after much discussion and many questions, it was decided that Sheri Baron and Bill Shea will both call Chief Fred Ryan to get to the bottom of why incidents such as the above are not questioned or reported as "hate crimes" and will suggest the need for the APD to have sensitivity training and invite the Chief come to meet with the committee to discuss ways to deal with these issues.
  
7. **New Business** - Sheri Baron reported that her letter to the Advocate is ready to go regarding the cook book idea - and that Mr. Morse at Arlington High School expressed an interest in doing the T-shirt project - Nick Minton invited the commission to an evening with Dr. Mahzarin Banaji at the Harvard Club in Boston on November 15<sup>th</sup> - subject: "Psychology of Ordinary Prejudice."

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.