

# **Pittsfield Human Rights Commission**

## **Agenda for April 8th, 2019**

**7:00 pm, Room 203, Pittsfield City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA**

- 1. Call to Order – Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law chapter 30A, section 20, all attendees are hereby informed that a video and audio recording is being made of this meeting.**
- 2. Roll call of HRC members – welcome new HRC Clerk, Christine Codella  
- Accept resignations of Antonia Buckley and Caterina Penna**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of March 11th 2019 meeting**
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Presentation to Commission – Jeanet Ingalls on Human Trafficking**
- 6. Unfinished Business – Revised guidelines for public comment and presentations to HRC**
  - Request Mayor Tyer not make public HRC members’ personal information - home address, phone number, etc.**
  - Brainstorm on presentations to HRC, possible proclamations from mayor, possible recommendations to City Council**

### **Agenda items submitted by Marietta Rapetti-Cawse –**

#### **I. Please include the following under unfinished business :**

Amend the HRC minutes for January 25, 2018 to note that Marietta Rapetti Cawse was late to the meeting and did not vote to support the Pittsfield School Committee action to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day on the school calendar.

Please correct those minute to read:

**All present supported the motion except Marietta Rapetti Cawse who was absent for the vote, and she would have opposed the motion. Instead she would have recommended that Columbus Day include Indigenous Peoples Day.**

Please record this statement in the minutes for April 8, 2019 also.

#### **II. Under new business I recommend reviewing **RULE 3: MEETINGS / 3.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS****

I recommend the Chair inform the Human Rights Commission when an event is planned **before** it takes place, for example the Transgender Standout Fall 2018 was announced on NPR without any prior discussion at the Human Rights Commission meeting. Another recent example is the program "on Willinet ", Sex & Gender 101....A conversation facilitated by Drew Herzig, Chair, Pittsfield Human Rights Commission."Would such a meeting, held by the Human Rights Commission Chair, serve as a special meeting?

Personal programs represent the thoughts of an individual. But when it represents the Human Rights Commission then prior discussion is needed. Prior discussion is a sign of respect to the commission members

and others. Circumventing the HRC members could be interpreted as disrespectful and ignoring Rule 3.: see bellow:

### **Referring to Rule 3: Meetings**

**3.2 Special Meetings:** Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chairperson, the Mayor, the City Council, or on the call of five (5) or more members of the Commission by email notice containing a listing of the items to be acted upon. Except in the case of an emergency, of which the Chairperson or Presiding Officer will be judge, such notice shall be posted upon the City notice board and delivered at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

**I suggest that rule 3.2 be followed and respected. To be redundant, the HRC should be actively involved in the thinking, discussion, planning and presentation.**

Thank you for your attention to these additions.  
Marietta Rapetti Cawse, Commissioner

### **- HRC election of officers**

**7. New Business – The City of Pittsfield’s Human Rights Commission condemns the hateful ideologies of white supremacy and white nationalism that promote racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia, and that led to the recent murders in New Zealand.**

**- Possible public forum with DOJ on free speech / hate speech**

**- June presentation to HRC by Ricard Collins, LMHC, Co-Responder Of the Pittsfield Police Department**

### **8. Reports of Commissioners**

**9. Adjournment - Next HRC meeting, Wednesday, May 15th, 7:15 pm, Room 203 – Meeting devoted to discussion of mission and function of HRC, including public comment and presentations to the HRC.**