

**Pittsfield Human Rights Commission**  
**Minutes – October 15, 2019,**  
**6:00 PM, Pittsfield City Hall**  
**Room 203, 70 Allen St., Pittsfield, MA**

**Members Present:** Drew Herzig, Chair  
Marietta Rapetti Cawse  
Robert Sykes  
Peter Marchetti  
Jay Lopez  
Christine Codella, Clerk

**Members Absent:** Jessica Christensen

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Drew Herzig called the meeting to order at 6 PM.
2. **Roll Call of HRC Members** – Christine Codella announced the roll call of members present. The resignation of Jessica Christensen to attend to family medical issues was accepted.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Peter Marchetti to approve the September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Marietta Rapetti Cawse, approved unanimously.
4. **Public Comment** – None
5. **Unfinished Business** – Peter Marchetti is mailing a complaint response letter to Mr. Alexander Blumin. A template of this letter to be kept on file for future use will be forwarded to Clerk, Christine Codella.
6. **The HRC Election of Officers** – Marietta Rapetti Cawse nominated Peter Marchetti for the position of Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission, effective for one year, as of the November meeting. Peter Marchetti nominated Drew Herzig to be the Vice Chairperson. All agreed.
7. **New Business** – The next HRC meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6 PM at city hall unless we hear otherwise.
8. A presentation was made by Andrea Harrington, Berkshire County District Attorney. She spoke at length about the work being done to implement Restorative Justice Services, whereby victims can have a discussion with the perpetrator. She said what is needed are trained individuals to implement this service. Drew Herzig noted that the HRC will offer any help and support it is able to provide. Also discussed was her concern about domestic/sexual violence as a community public health problem. Recommended community reading is “No Visible Bruises: What We Don’t Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us” by Rachel Louise Snyder. Snyder will be the speaker at a conversation series at the Colonial Theater on February 6, 2020. Marietta Rapetti Cawse recommended the DA reach out to PCTV to broadcast and record the event.

There was a discussion on how to build trust: law enforcement, two-day training, domestic violence regarding gender identity, race and more.

9. Peter Marchetti will reach out to get a speaker for the November meeting. He will also try to form a Transgender panel discussion.
10. **Reports of Commissions** – The HRC needs to actively recruit new members.
11. Peter Marchetti made a motion to adjourn, Robert Sykes seconded. Approved unanimously.