

BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING OF

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 7, 2024  
TIME: 2:32 PM

Reserved for Town Clerk Use Only

**Committee Name: Belmont Human Rights Commission**

**Subcommittee Name if Applicable:** Click here to enter text.

**Date: December 14, 2023**

**Time: 7pm**

In keeping with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020; "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" - All Participation for Town Residents will be by Remote Access. If the audio becomes unavailable, the meeting will be paused until it can be restored, or the meeting will end.

Topic: Belmont Human Rights Commission

Time: December 14, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Attendees: Jess Hicks, Mike MacGillivray, Lara Guzman-Hosta, Kim Haley-Jackson

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order- called to order at 7:08
2. Meeting notes approval
3. Liaison reports
  - a. No liaisons in attendance
4. MLK Breakfast
  - a. Concerns- Jess, too late for planning, too many elders in the group who can get sick. Lara agrees w/ Jess. Mike: health if it is possible to do something online that is what we have to do. I'm always a big fan of in person because the experience and contact and in the moment are really great. Health concerns have to be forefront. Dee: either or. Covid, but if we practice social distancing. Jess: important to consider. Our HRC group was 12 ppl, staffing at the event, me and Kim in room w/ other kids. Concerned about our ability to be able to manage.
  - b. Group voted to hold virtually
5. Henry Tapia scholarship

a. \$300 contribution- all members voted in agreement.

## 6. Statement on Gaza/Israel

a. Discussion on gaza/israel statement: Mike, for, important we say something, jess also agrees, silence says something we don't want to be saying. Lara focus on human rights - mike: i like human rights focus, i would love to see some kind of peace something about criticizing a government does not mean criticizing entire ppl. Jess: Can we write a statement BHRC we are against antisemitism, islamophobia, Lara: concerned word cease fire has become political and raise concerns of lack of impartiality. Mike, word ceasefire should be there in context so that it is not misinterpreted. Jess: make sure we mention Hamas to stop hostilities as well, release hostages.

## 7. Educational events (potential)

- a. Community discussion about Human Rights violations in Gaza/Israel. Experts needed on the issues
- b. John Birch society- John Birch society here in town and lingering influences on politics, are a conservative group funded by Welch's group. He lived here and had this group and very involved in trying to maintain white supremacy to influence politics, very influential in town. Nobody talks about it because it's an embarrassment. Bringing into the open to discuss. We have contacted the author and plan to host in late winter 2024

Meeting adjourned at 7:53

Notes by Jess Hicks