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Melrose Human Rights Commission

Melrose City Hall, 562 Main St, Melrose, MA 02176

[Human Rights Commission Official Website](#)

humanrightscommission@cityofmelrose.org | Hotline: (781) 979-4140

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January 26, 2026 AD HOC meeting

Members Present: Lizzy Barr (Chair), Randall Carter, Jay Stapp, Brian Kochanowski, Linda Thompson, Laura Bergsten

Members Absent:

Members of Public: None

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Barr at 6:03 pm with a quorum of 6 Commissioners present.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Chairperson Barr tabled a motion to accept minutes of previous meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The Chair noted that 0 member(s) of the public were present. The Chair tabled a motion to open public comment.
- Reading of the Minutes
- Public Comment
- Chairperson's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Regular Business
 - Guidance from city solicitor re: sharing/publicizing demonstrations, vigils, etc
 - MHRC Commissioners may attend such events as private citizens
 - However, the Commission may not publicize them, nor participate
 - 2026 Goal planning
 - Commissioners brainstormed and discussed what this year's top priorities should be
 - incl.: know your rights education, raising awareness of HRC
 - goal: get added to local Melrose neighborhood signal chat(s)
 - the importance of community education
 - ordering more "know your rights" cards, in various languages
 - in-person info sessions—also helps with community-building
 - Possibility of working with our clergy liaison to tap into community events happening
 - Using recent Melrose Messenger article to publicize MHRC

- To do: Commissioner Carter strategize on best places to hand out/drop off KYR cards
 - where were they dropped off previously?
 - Oak Grove?
 - See: stakeholders list in GDrive
 - Commissioner Bergstrom volunteered to help esp. with any writing/other communications
 - also organizing, soliciting of in-kind donations
 - Commissioner Kochanowski: particularly interested in cultivating in-person community building opportunities
 - To do: Commissioner Kochanowski to brainstorm ways to get Melrosians together in-person, including finding possible venue(s) for a gathering
 - Commissioner Stapp: to look into feasibility of pocket constitutions, whistles
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- Updates
 - Other and/or Unfinished Business
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 - Adjournment
 - Commissioner Barr entertained a motion to adjourn
 - Commissioner Kochanowski moves; Commissioner Thompson seconds
 - motion passes without objection
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm