



Melrose Human Rights Commission

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

[Human Rights Commission Official Website](https://www.cityofmelrose.org/humanrightscommission)

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[@MelroseHRC](https://www.facebook.com/MelroseHRC) [@Melrose_HRC](https://www.instagram.com/Melrose_HRC) [@MelroseHRC](https://www.butterfly.com/@MelroseHRC)

March 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lizzy Barr (Chair), Randall Carter, Jay Stapp, Brian Kochanowski, Laurie Chomko, Josh Shortlidge

Members Absent: Linda Thompson, Laura Bergsten

Members of Public: None

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Barr at 6:02 pm with a quorum of 6 Commissioners present.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Chairperson Barr entertained a motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
 - Commissioner Kochanowski moves; seconded by Commissioner Carter
 - Motion passes unanimously

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
 - Staffing updates
 - Welcome and introduction of 2 new members: Laurie Chomko, Josh Shortlidge
 - Josh expressed interest in HRC working with Pathways to Restorative Communities
 - Also, how to rebuild HRC connection with Melrose Schools
 - Terms expire in March (i.e., after Feb. 28)
 - Vice Chair position is vacant
 - Website updates
 - membership changes
 - intake form & process
 - add "resources & information" section to homepage
- Treasurer's Report
 - balance: \$2,425.01
 - Outstanding payments/approved obligations:
 - MLK Day of Service (up to \$280)
 - Roosevelt World Culture Day (up to \$280)
 - Chair Barr has ordered the materials

- discussion around processing reimbursements
 - Question from Commissioner Shortlidge re: possible change in HRC budget, in light of passage of budget override
 - Chair Barr met with the mayor—budget restoration not out of the question
 - discussion around how to make best case for funding
 - HRC has had to prepare budget memo in the past
- Regular Business
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- Updates
 - Chair Barr—Clergy
 - UU will host KYR training; will send info to Chair and will add Chair to Pro-Democracy communications
 - Commissioner Thompson—Police
 - General Order/Policy of the Police Department: MPD Policy 1.33/Standing Order 17-004
 - Commissioner Stapp—MWH
 - Was not able to get an answer. Left a voicemail with the risk management office (781.979.3000 x3385)
 - Commissioner Carter—KYR Cards
 - sent email to various faith leaders to offer know your rights cards in various languages
 - received several responses so far
 - Commissioner Carter to begin distributing cards
 - TO DO: Commissioner Carter to coordinate with Chair Barr offline re: card distribution
 - Also will print one-pager from HRC re: what KYR cards
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 - TO DO: Commissioner Carter to send second email blast with additional contacts
 - president@tbsma.org—prob better to email than Rabbi Jessica
 - jeslowen@gmail.com
 - info@maldenislamiccenter.org
- New Business
 - Roosevelt School World Fair
 - Friday, March 13th
 - Option to have MHRC table - Linda?
 - Commissioner Stapp moves to approve additional \$7 in funding for this event; Commissioner Shortlidge seconds
 - motion passes without objection
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- Other and/or Unfinished Business
 - Magnet Donation from Bo Tsang DiMatteo
 - Original creator of MHRC logo
 - Weekly Stand-Out at City Hall
 - Saturdays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - HRC Group Chat created
- Adjournment

- Commissioner Barr entertained a motion to adjourn
- Commissioner Carter moves; Commissioner Chomko seconds
- motion passes without objection
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm