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Melrose Human Rights Commission

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

[Human Rights Commission Official Website](#)

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February 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes

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 6:05 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—1.13.26
 - Commissioner Thompson moves; seconded by Commissioner Carter
 - Motion passes unanimously
- Chairperson Barr entertained a motion to accept minutes of previous meeting—1.26.26
- Commissioner Thompson moves; seconded by Commissioner Bergsten
- 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.
- Public Comment
- Chairperson's Report
 - Received a statement of interest from a prospective Commissioner, Laurie Chomko
 - Laurie Chomko's and Josh Shortlidge's respective applications will be reviewed at next City Council meeting on 2/23/26
 - Vice-Chair position is vacant
 - Will be voted on at March meeting
 - Magnet Donation from Bo Tsang DiMatteo
 - Original creator of MHRC logo
 - Reminder: Massachusetts Human Rights Coalition meeting on Friday, 2/13 @ 9 a.m.
- Treasurer's Report
 - No change in account balance
 - Working on reimbursement for MLK Day of Service sponsorship
- Regular Business
 - TO DO: Chair Barr and Commissioner Bergsten to meet with City Solicitor
 - Confirm suggested donations in WHM social media copy with Shannon Phillips

- Updates
 - Commission on Disability - Zoom Captions
 - Chair attended Commission on Disability meeting on 1/14
 - CoD will inquire with Mayor's Office if official city Zoom meetings have captions enabled
 - CoD expressed desire for future interaction between CoD and HRC
 - including potential of naming a liaison
 - Mayor Grigoraitis Co-Signs Brief Challenging Unconstitutional Immigration Enforcement Operations
 - Federal amicus brief to stop ICE actions in St. Paul Minnesota
 - Links to City's Resources for Immigrants page
 - Mentions the HRC and links to our resource guides
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 - Commissioner updates on action items from January Ad Hoc Meeting
 - Connections with Police, Mayor's Office, MWH, and Clergy
 - UU will host KYR training; will send info to Chair and will add Chair to Pro-Democracy communications
 - Chair will meet with Rev Suzanne on 2/19
 - Commissioner Thompson: General Order/Policy of the Police Department
 - TO DO: follow up with MPD
 - Treasurer Stapp:
 - Found contact numbers for MWH
 - To follow up with MWH re:
 - Strategies and locations for Know Your Rights Red Card distribution
 - TO DO: email churches to offer KYR cards
 - Commissioner Carter to email faith leaders re: KYR cards
 - ask about various languages
 - MHRC has a "red cards" document
 - English: 1500 cards
 - 100: in most other languages
 - 500: in Spanish, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Arabic
 - 250: Haitian, Spanish (more)
 - TO DO: Chair Barr conduct inventory of cards
 - Commissioner Bergsten
 - performed updates around MHRC social media scheduled posts
 - Commissioner Kochanowski
 - update re: City standing order re: MPD and federal immigration policy
 - See [MPD dispatch](#)
- New Business
 - Roosevelt School World Culture Fair—MHRC sponsorship
 - Discussion re: MHRC sponsoring the event
 - Motion to fund up to \$280 passed at 1.13.26 meeting
 - Discussion around MHRC funding account—post QR code at WCF to
 - TO DO: Commissioner Stapp to email Mayor's Office re: setting up funding account for MHRC
 - TO DO: Chair Barr to follow up with Roosevelt School parents

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- Intake Form
- Reviewed and approved by City Solicitor Shannon Phillips
- Discussion to approve and publish Intake Form
- Chair Barr entertains a vote to approve for publication the intake form publicly on HRC site
 - Commissioner Stapp moves; seconded by Commissioner Thompson
 - Motion passes unanimously
- Mock Intake Process Exercise
 - Need template for “confirmed receipt”
 - TO DO: Chair Barr to meet with Tom Dalton re: website access
 - discussion around flow chart and life cycle of intake process
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- Other and/or Unfinished Business
 - Weekly Stand-Out at City Hall
 - Saturdays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - HRC Group Chat created
 - Reschedule next meeting to preserve quorum
 - will discuss further online
- Adjournment
 - Commissioner Barr entertained a motion to adjourn
 - Commissioner Carter moves; Commissioner Thompson seconds
 - motion passes without objection
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm