

**Permanent Commission on the Status of Hartford Women**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
5:30 – 7:00 PM  
Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Children's Dept. Youth Program Room  
Hartford, CT 06103

2020 MAR 12 PM 4:20

TOWN & CITY CLERK

1. Call to Order at 5:42 pm.
  - a. Welcome and introduction to new prospective Commissioner Gloria Brown.
2. Roll Call: Members present in person or by phone/quorum.
  - a. Present Members: Chairwoman Sharon Pope, Vice-Chairwoman Tammy Leach, Managing Secretary Erica Crowley, Haben Abraham and Janee Folston.
  - b. Absent Members: Mary-Jane Foster, Melinda Johnson, Shannon Kula, Jamelia Morgan, and Yadira Rivera
  - c. Staff Present: Faith Palmer and David Grant
  - d. Presenter: Carole Mulready, League of Women Voters Greater Hartford, Chair of Voter Services for Greater Hartford
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.
  - a. Correction made to minutes.
  - b. Motion to approve by Vice-Chairwoman Tammy Leach and seconded by Managing Secretary Erica Crowley with changes. Approved with one abstention from Chairwoman Pope due to absence at said meeting.
4. Officer Reports.
  - a. Chairperson Pope
    - a. No report.
  - b. Vice-Chairwoman Leach
    - i. Report on survey results from empowerment event.

Survey results indicate the event was highly successful, impactful, and feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive. As a follow up, a focus group will be formed based on the information from the survey (the needs of justice-involved women). Sara Diamond asked Vice-Chairwoman Leach to facilitate the focus group.
    - ii. Joint meeting with LGBTQ+ Commission.

Commissioners discussed scheduling joint meeting with LGBTQ+ Commission to hear results of HPD's "culture and climate review" which Interim Police Chief Thody said at town hall will be finished in the summer. Tammy will work with LGBTQ+ Commission and Police Civilian Review Board to schedule a planning meeting to put together an agenda. Sharon will invite Interim Police Chief Thody to April meeting to give an update, since that will mark about one year into the process.

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- iii. Mayor Carrie Saxon Perry  
Vice-Chairwoman Leach attended memorial to Mayor Carrie Saxon Perry, the City of Hartford's 63<sup>rd</sup> mayor, the first black female mayor in Connecticut, and a well-known civic leader at the Artist's Collective on February 5, 2020. She reported that the memorial was very informative. The video montage of Mayor Carrie Saxon Perry was viewed.
- c. Managing Secretary Erica Crowley.
  - i. Suggested for recording minutes meeting, in addition to signing up, there should be rotating schedule of commission members for taking meeting minutes. Email reminders should be sent out on the Sunday before each meeting. Each meeting should also have backup note-taker. Discussion on upcoming events and PCSHW meeting guests schedule.
  - ii. Erica gave summary of attending Mayor Bronin/Interim Police Chief Thody Town Hall in January, and Commission discussed the Hartford Courant article about the event that Mary Jane sent. The Commission was asked, along with 11 other organizations, to sit on a panel where each organization could ask Interim Chief Thody 1 question. Originally the Mayor's Office reached out to Sharon, but she was out of town, so Tammy agreed but got sick a few days before and asked Erica to fill in. To prepare, Erica sent an email to all commissioners the day of event asking for question input, Tammy responded noting concern about there only being one candidate and Erica agreed she shared those concerns, Janee responded saying she had no specific questions, and there was no other input sent. During the event community members asked Mayor Bronin about his selection process, and panelists asked various questions asked about housing, domestic violence, youth trust in the department, community policing, body cameras, surveillance, and more. A 12 person panel made questions/comments very quick, so on behalf of the Commission Erica thanked Interim Police Chief Thody for paying attention to all of our work around sexual harassment etc and attending multiple meetings to listen, and asked if he would consider rejecting the nomination until more candidates available, considering the severity of these issues and importance of the job. Interim Police Chief Thody said no, he is not in that position and feels confident in his candidacy. Erica noted that the structure of one question per group, and only being able to gather commissioner input by email was not ideal, and the Commission should consider calling special meetings to prepare for panels in the future, or choose not to participate.
  - iii. Time allotted to David Grant to share information
    - 1. Save the date for April 16, 2020, 3-8pm, meeting of City Commissions. There will be a reception and awards ceremony. Nominations will go out later this week. Three winners will be honored at the ceremony. There will also be a public engagement portion. The City has identified eight

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commissions that need additional commissioners. There will be a panel of different city commissioners where residents can ask commissioners questions. DataHaven will present and they have the ability to break down data specifically to Hartford. Some commissions have already met with DataHaven. It's important for all of commissions and commissioners to understand the residents we serve. DataHaven will send report to the PCSHW.

5. Committee and Special Reports.

- a. Managing Secretary Crowley - introduction of Trinity College research team and their work on Code of Conduct reports. Managing Secretary Crowley is working with a research team of first year Trinity College students in Trinity's Community Action Gateway program. The research team is composed of four student researchers from a year-long course "Building Knowledge for Social Change" which is supervised by Professor Megan Faver Hartline, Director of Community Learning at Trinity College. Overall the students are interested in the role of commissions, policing, and listening to and learning from community members and commissioners. Their end product will be a report, presentation, and possible infographic on these issues so the Commission has this background information. Managing Secretary Crowley will share the group's work plan and syllabus with the Commission, and will work with the students and their professor Megan Faver Hartline to schedule the student researchers to present their research to commission, or a sub-committee in late April.
- b. Participation in the 2020 Census for disenfranchised populations.
  - i. Gloria Brown attended a meeting about hiring people as Census 2020 workers, and will share information with PCSHW.
- c. 2020 Initiative to focus on Registering Hartford Women to Vote. Committee report – item held until after presentation.

6. Special Orders.

- a. Discussion on the parameters of the Commission's work regarding a drive to register women to vote in Hartford.
  - i. Commissioner Haben Abraham reached out to Brittney Yancy about a partnership with the Hartford Chapter of AKA, the first Black Sorority, who are working on voter registration.
  - ii. Jillian Davey has been conducting background research. Information is challenging to find, the number of registered voters we have in Hartford, recent elections and election calendars and how people find out about them and polling locations, voter turnout, registration for people convicted of felony crimes, etc. Overall hard to find information specific to Hartford. Recommendation about educating information about voting and local candidates in particular.

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- iii. Formation of a sub-committee for the 2020 Voter Registration/Education Initiative -- Commissioner Abraham, Commissioner Gloria Brown, and Jillian Davey. Sub-committee will give an update on this work in March.
  - 1. Managing Secretary Crowley brought up the Trinity Center for Hartford Engagement & Research, which has an interest in creating educational voter guide about local, state, national elections etc. and will connect with the subcommittee.
- 7. Unfinished/Old Business.
- 8. Public Comment.
  - a. Leslie Hammond was at the forum concerning Interim Police Chief Thody Managing Secretary Crowley attended and said that Managing Secretary Crowley was making a statement to represent the PCSHW on their work with the City's sexual harassment policy, but the facilitator kept pushing her to ask a specific question. Ms. Hammond also stated that she has resources for voting, as she ran for DTC office in 4<sup>th</sup> district. Noted that the city makes very little effort in voter education and increasing the number of voters, and have no desire to educate voters and increase voter turnout.
  - b. Taniqua Huguley attended the PCSHW meeting for the first time and expressed agreement on discussions of voting registration resources and the importance of getting people out to vote. She suggested working with Black Sororities and churches in area that do a lot of work in conjunction with Urban League and NAACP. Taniqua noted that DataHaven does good work and has a lot of information relating to health and women. Additionally, Trinity College's Data Collaborative (CT Data Collaborative) has local information and have more information relevant to what's happening here in Hartford.
- 9. New Business.
  - a. Presentation by Carole Mulready, League of Women Voters Greater Hartford, Chair of Voter Services for Greater Hartford. Overviewed history of Women's Suffrage movement and the history of women of color voting. Black women played an important role in getting women the right to vote but their contributions were largely overlooked and they were excluded. Despite having a lot of influential black women, the Suffrage Movement largely ignored their voices. Big suffragettes were split on whether or not to support and include black women. The League of Women Voters is currently trying to encourage ppl in becoming part of 2020 Census. LWV does not have large presence in Hartford because it does not have many Hartford residents. The League responds to people that request help in registering voters, and have education pamphlets and pamphlets on how to register voters. They hold workshops on how to register voters.
    - a. Public Comment in response to presentation.
      - 1. Taniqua noted that the League of Women Voters is not known to work in communities of color, and asked if Carole Mulready could speak on that.

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In response, Ms. Mulready said that the League's areas of focus is based on its members. The League focuses on areas where its members are from. It's a matter of getting the membership.

10. Announcements.

- a. Tentative Upcoming PCSHW Meeting Guests
  - i. March – Aurora Foundation and potentially DataHaven
  - ii. April – Corporation Council & Interim Police Chief Thody and Corporation Counsel will be training on ethics and conflicts of interest
  - iii. May – DataHaven, if not available in March
- b. Family Life Education Gala will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020. For anyone interested in attending, email Commissioner Shannon Kula and she will register you free of charge.

11. Adjournment at 7:07 PM with a motion by Vice-Chairwoman Leach and seconded by Managing Secretary Crowley.

