

**Permanent Commission on the Status of Hartford Women (PCSHW)**  
**Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 5:30-7:00 PM**  
**Via ZOOM**

**1. Call to order at 5:38 PM**

**2. Roll Call: Members present via ZOOM**

- a. Present Commissioners: Sharon Pope, Tammy Leach, Erica Crowley, Mary-Jane Foster, Haben Abraham, Janee Folston, Shannon Kula; Research Associate Jillian Davey
- b. Absent Commissioners: Yadira Rivera, Gloria Brown
- c. City Staff: Faith Palmer

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

- a. Chairwoman Pope made the motion to approve the July 2020, Commissioner Kula seconded.

**4. Officer Reports**

a. Chairwoman Pope

- i. Chairwoman Pope confirmed with City Staffer Palmer that Hartford Chief of Police Jasoon Thody has been notified about meeting in October on the final results of the HPD Organizational Climate Report along with the research team.
- ii. Attorney Lori Mizerak, Assistant Corporation Counsel, City of Hartford, is also confirmed with Faith for attending the PCSHW November meeting regarding the topic of Ethics and Conflict of Interest.
- iii. Chairwoman Pope is drafting a letter that can be sent to all Hartford NRZs regarding the 2020 Census so that the PCSHW can further advance women's voices are counted. Jillian will put all NRZ info into a google doc and will share with all Commissioners for individual sign up and if no one signs up, Jillian will assign everyone arbitrarily.
  - 1. Commissioner Folston agreed to work on seeing where pockets of the city of Hartford were missing from the census.

b. Vice Chairwoman Leach

- i. COVID-19 in Prisons – concerned the pandemic is not being addressed in prisons and suggested commissioners (1) contact their local legislators to urge them to make this a priority and (2) she will draft a letter by Friday August 14 that could be signed by all commissioners to encourage action to address the urgent need.
  - 1. Chairwoman Pope made a motion, Vice Chairwoman Leach seconded.
- ii. Combined LGBTQ+ and Human Rights commissioner meeting in regards to the HPD Organizational Climate Report – Vice Chairwoman Leach reached out but there does not seem to be a sense of urgency and understanding of the impact of the report on their commission community.  
Chairwoman Pope suggested reengaging the two commissioners and urge them again to (1) read the report, (2) come and listen to the final report, (3) be prepared to ask questions.

City Staffer Palmer explained that David Grant is no longer managing the commissions.

Chairwoman Pope asked who was in charge of the commissions now if David Grant. City Staffer Palmer shared that Kayla is currently working with Commissions.

Commissioner Crowley agreed that it would be a good idea to have the LGBTQ+ and Human Rights Commission commissioners review the report and also invite them to the meeting that goes over the findings. She also suggested perhaps sending them the details of the Kelly Baerga's case to help them understand the urgency and importance of the report findings.

**c. Managing Secretary Crowley**

- i. September note taking responsibility will reside with Commissioner Abraham as the primary and Commissioner Janee Folston as secondary.
- ii. Adding to Vice Chairwoman Leach's comments about the Workplace Accountability Review Board and City Council taking input on the Civilian Police Review Board – the major concerns are: that the Mayor needs to stipulate that both review boards should consist of 50% women, sole disciplinary power should not reside only with the police commissioner but rather spread out and at least one member should be formerly incarcerated.
- iii. Chairwoman Pope asked Commissioner Crowley to draft the letter for commissioner's review. Chairwoman Pope made the motion and Shannon Kula seconded.

**5. Committee and Special Reports**

- a. Chairwomen Pope indicated that she will craft a report that commissioners can send to NRZs. Jillian is still waiting on commissioner contact information so that we can identify where everyone is represented so please send your info. Also, the Chairwoman asked City Staffer Palmer about voter registration statistics in Hartford and City Staffer Palmer will share that information.
  - i. City Staffer Palmer also added that the Hartford Census staffer asked that everyone commit to calling five people to be sure they fill out the census forms.
  - ii. Commissioner Mary Jane Foster recommended sharing the links to check your voter registration, polling location and census with commissioners so they have it readily available when calling individuals. City Staffer Palmer indicated that she will look up and share with commissioners.
  - iii. Commissioner Haben shared that she connected with Hartford's League of Women Voters (LWV) and the League is trying to recruit for Election Day, reduce barriers to voting, and they will be meeting next month about these topics and they will get back to the PCSHW after that meeting.

**6. Special Orders**

- a. None to report

**7. Unfinished / Old Business**

- a. Chairwoman Pope raised the unfinished bylaws and specific items such as:

- i. Number of commissioners – general sense of commissioners was 15
- ii. Hartford residency – general sense was Hartford residency important
- iii. Meeting frequency – general sense was to continue monthly though some months could be virtual vice in person
- iv. Chairwoman Pope will aim to have this completed by the end of the 2020 year

#### **8. New Business**

- a. None to report

#### **9. Public Comments**

- a. Erica Palmer shared that a Hartford resident posted a concerning experience with Hartford Police on Facebook and a lawyer in town, Bruce Rubenstein, responded asking that she reach out to him.
  - i. Chairwoman Pope and commissioners shared the concern and wanted to know more of what potentially happened and recommended that if Erica Palmer connected with her again to suggest connecting with the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence with the victim.
- b. Leslie Hammond shared that she sent a letter to the four city councilwomen about having women on the review board but to date has received no response back.
- c. Gannon shared that she agreed with all the recommendations by the PCSHW for the review board and would be happy to volunteer to help in any way.

#### **10. Announcements**

- a. COVID-19 testing is available in Hartford and encouraged everyone to take a test to ensure their health and those around them.

#### **11. Adjourned 7:06 PM**

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