

Human Rights Commission
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86702902131>
January 22, 2026 Minutes

Human Rights Commission Members Present: Commissioner Goodspeed; Commissioner Gore; Commissioner Hermansen; Commissioner Chapman; Commissioner Lawton

Human Rights Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Turner

Staff: Michele Farry; Scott Hoiberg; Amy DiCaprio

The meeting was conducted on Zoom and recorded.

Public Comment Session: No Public Comments

- I. **Meeting opened January 22, 2026** at 5:07 pm by Commissioner Goodspeed, who announced the meeting was being recorded.
- II. **Review Minutes**
Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2025.
Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Commissioner Hermansen to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Gore. All were in favor (5-0).
- III. **Discussion - I.C.E. Resources:** With tension over ICE's impact on the public across the country and concern raised to City Council from the community, the Human Rights Commission discussed ways that they can obtain and share information to make sure that Northampton has all the resources and information they need to deal with any encounters with ICE. The Commissioners decided that they should develop a trifold that contains helplines, safe places to claim sanctuary, rights that are guaranteed to all persons, as well as information on the Human Rights Commission with a statement from the Mayor and the Police Chief on Human Rights. To be able to reach the whole community, the Human Rights Commission will be looking into ways to translate the trifold. The commission will review a draft of the trifold in the next scheduled meeting and discuss ways to get it printed and distributed in the community. The Human Rights Commission also discussed holding public forums in the future to bring people together. Commissioner Goodspeed will put together a budget to try and get support in hosting an event and will continue to envision what this may look like.
- IV. **Discussion - Actionable Steps Following CHNA Presentation:** Following the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) from the Department of Health & Human Services, the Human Rights Commission discussed actionable next steps following the presentation. The discussion was an initial brainstorm discussing ways in which the Human Rights Commission can take the information gathered from the CHNA and disseminate it out to the community to help destigmatize and address misinformation while reinforcing the value of the issues that were raised. This will continue to be discussed in future meetings.

V. Action Items

- Commissioner Hermansen to develop language for the trifold
- Commissioner Gore to call churches in Northampton who provide a safe place to claim sanctuary
- Commissioner Goodspeed to create a draft of the trifold for review in the next meeting
- Commissioner Lawton to research a way to translate the trifold
- Commissioner Goodspeed to create a budget for hosting a public forum

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Human Rights Commission meeting by Commissioner Chapman, seconded by Commissioner Hermansen, all in favor (5-0)

Meeting closed at 6:32 PM.

The next scheduled Human Rights Commission Meeting: February 26, 2026

Human Rights Commission

Date: January 22, 2026

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Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Human Rights Commission during their scheduled meeting.

These documents are available for review at the:

- **% The Department of Health & Human Services, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060**
- January 22, 2026 Meeting Agenda
- December 4, 2025 Minutes