

BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING OF

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 7, 2024
TIME: 2:31 PM

Reserved for Town Clerk Use Only

Committee Name: Belmont Human Rights Commission

Subcommittee Name if Applicable: Click here to enter text.

Date: January 4, 2024

Time: 7pm

Attendees: Lara Guzman-Hosta, Mike MacGillivray, Kim Haley-Jackson, Jess Hicks, Chief James MacIsaac, Chief David DiStefano, Jeffrey Held

NOTES

1. Call to order- called to order at 7:10pm
2. Email/phone reports
 - a. No complaints, no issues reported. Jess Hicks will be handling emails/phone this month.
 - b. Kim heard concerns from the Select Board on the Gaza statement we will have a discussion later on this topic
3. Liaison reports
 - a. Chief Jamie MacIsaac- Over the holidays no issues related to hate crimes/reports but increase in domestic violence calls. Co-responder has about 20-30 evaluations a month. On 12/17 Temple Beth El had a bomb scare along with several synagogues across the state. Call for federal government to investigate.
 - i. Kim asked the chief about our removal from civil service in the Belmont PD. Jamie says there was a meeting with the union. Since that we learned that there is a movement afoot to get a ballot question in the town this April to vote on civil service. Also discussed was the school resource officer resigning due to relocating to a different town.
 - b. Chief DiStefano (Belmont Fire Department) - We are going through the hiring process, 3 candidates (pre-vetted): Belmont resident, veteran, and young Latino male. Coffee with the Chief is scheduled for January 16 at 7pm.

4. MLK Breakfast

- a. Due to the rise in Covid and RSV and given our elder population, we will switch to virtual. Danielle Spark, graduate of METCO Belmont will be our keynote speaker. This brings our focus back to our METCO students. Two parents are interested in speaking. The Belmont High choir will record their performance and we will use our art slides from last year to open. Discussion on the MLK flyer for distribution.

5. Statement on Gaza/Israel

- a. Jeffrey Held, a member of the public joined us to share his views on the statement. He speaks of a child in his family (10 yr.) who went to Sunday school and there was a bomb scare in the temple and how traumatizing that was for him. Mentions how helpful Chief Maclsaac was. He disagrees with the statement's focus. He has family in Israel, discusses how difficult the situation was there. Discusses concern that focus on Israel solely and not Hamas is concerning. Wonders if there is disproportional focus on this historically with the BHRC vs. other issues/conflicts?

6. Votes

- a. Yes on statement and Yes on meeting minutes.