



**Belmont Human Rights Commission
Belmont Town Hall
January 7, 2010**

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Lisa Bernt, Carl Brauer, Nan Donald, Chuck Lavery, Laura Panos, Connie Williams, Fran Yuan
Members Absent: Julie Cicalese, Paul Solomon
Liaisons Present: Captain Peter Hoerr (Belmont Police Department); Dan LeClerc, Board of Selectmen

Meeting convened at 7:08 pm.
Fran Yuan took notes. A quorum was present.

- The December minutes were approved unanimously.
 - Chuck reported on the telephone line: There were two calls: one from a repeat caller and the other from a Connecticut caller about a job loss, probably a call made in error.
Lisa agreed to check the phone during the next month.
- 3. The Commission voted unanimously to partner with the US Census 2010. This would mean that we would engage in outreach efforts to the extent that is feasible and as resources permit. One suggestion was that we write a letter to the editor of the Belmont Citizen Herald about the importance of the census. The town of Belmont also does a yearly directory. It was suggested that the Census could use this directory to see if information matches up and also to locate people.
- 4. Members were encouraged to attend the MLK Breakfast on January 18th. Flyers were distributed as well as e-mailed so information could be disseminated.
- 5. Laura said that she plans to get in touch with the Senior Center to propose a talk about the HRC and how it may affect issues related to seniors.
- 6. Lisa said that she would contact Dan Richards at the high school about Diversity Week and the possibility of someone from MCAD speaking about the HRC and

employment. Lisa and Laura could also put together a talk about workplace issues. Connie suggested that it would also be helpful to share what the HRC does.

7. Dan spoke about Kris Comment, a high school teacher, coming to his college-level history class to speak about issues related to dealing with gay issues in school and how to include this in curricula. He spoke highly of an article Kris had written in an English Education journal and said he would email a copy to us.
8. Laura suggested we use the Belmont Media Center for more publicity about the HRC. She will sign us up as a member and find out about posting a notice on the cable channel.
9. Fran reminded everyone to complete their ethics training on line before the March meeting. Chuck had already completed it and said there were about 25 questions to answer.
10. Fran will complete an annual report and email it to members before the February meeting.
11. Captain Hoerr reminded members that Belmont two police officers were being deployed to Afghanistan. He also reported an incident that involved telephone threats between two black males and the use of an epithet. He thought this was used more in the street sense and that it was not a hate crime.
12. Dan reported that there are appeals on the Uplands property. If the property development stays residential, there will be a new population in the area that will include those residing in 40B affordable housing units. This may not happen for 4-5 years. He was concerned that these future residents feel included in the community since the property is isolated and outside of the main residential areas of Belmont. He mentioned a blog by Paul Roberts where individuals were helping the homeless housed at the hotel on Route 2 with donations of food.

The meeting adjourned at 8: 35 pm.