

West Hartford Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 3, 2025

Call to Order: 6:51 p.m.

Attendees: Mark Linabury, Alana Butler, Eric Schoenberg, Eva Jacobson, Katie Lance, Bruno Venero, David Ware, Pramod Pradhan

- Public Comment: No public comments.
- Approval of Minutes
 - April Minutes: Adopted as amended
 - June Minutes: Adopted as amended
- Nominations and Elections
 - Motion: To create a co-chair position.
 - *Motioned by:* Alana Butler
 - *Seconded by:* Eric Schoenberg
 - *Result:* Approved
 - Nominations for Co-Chair:
 - *Nomination:* Alana Butler, nominated by Mark Linabury
 - *Nomination:* Katie Lance, nominated by David Ware
 - *Vote:* 7 total votes – Katie Lance (2), Alana Butler (5)
 - *Result:* Alana Butler elected as Co-Chair
- Nomination for Secretary:
 - Katie Lance was nominated but withdrew her name.
 - *Result:* Position remains vacant.
- Strategic Plan: Discussion held regarding strategic plan, including recommended changes for 2026.
- Committee Reports
 - Social Media & Engagement Subcommittee:
 - Dave reported hearing from State Rep. Kate Farrar regarding an immigration panel discussion planned by state legislators to be held at the Webster Library. WHHRC to co-chair
 - Katie reported on Safe Crossing Shabbat
 - Katie - Recommendation: Resolution on “Human Rights in Business and Governance” affirming West Hartford’s commitment will be voted on at the next meeting
 - Motion: To invite Bill Heiden to a future meeting.
 - *Made by:* Katie
 - *Seconded by:* Eric
 - *Result:* Approved unanimously.

- Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Working Group:
 - Eva reported three individuals have been invited for initial discussions: Michael Bloom, Chief Riddick, and Adrienne Billings-Smith
- Unfinished Business
 - Continue monitoring legislation regarding FGM.
 - Discussed inviting Representative Gilchrest to a future meeting to speak on both FGM and immigration panel
 - Vision Zero hearing on speed cameras held tonight—discussion deferred.
- Additional agenda items deferred to the next meeting.
- Next Meeting
 - Date: October 8, 2025
 - Agenda Items Carried Forward:
 - Human Rights Club
 - Right of non-citizens
 - Vacancies
 - Secretary position
 - Resolution on Human Rights in Business and Governance
 - Declaration of Human Rights Celebration
- Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.
- Next Meeting: October 8, 2025