

Town of West Hartford – Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 3, 2026

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM.

Attendance

Present: Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller, Michael Bloom, Sue A. Collins, Eric Schoenberg, Carol Blanks, Greg Collins, Eva Jacobson, Robin Mark Santiago, Pramod Pradhan (Staff Liaison).

Absent: Jessica Serrano

Approval of Meeting Minutes- May 6, 2026

Motion to approve meeting minutes

Motioned by – Commissioner Jacobson

Second – Commissioner G. Collins

Approved

1 abstention (Commissioner S. Collins)

Public Comments-

No one from the public signed for public comment.

Unfinished Business

1. **Hate Crimes & Hate Speech –**

Commissioner Bloom and Commissioner Jacobson provided additional information about the Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Group

Motion:

1. Change Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Group to a subcommittee.
2. Coordinate outreach efforts by:
 - a. Meeting with WeHa police chief, superintendent, and mayor.
 - b. Engage with community organizations.
3. Distribute flyers and brochures:
 - a. Post flyers at public bulletin boards in WeHa.
 - b. Distribute brochures to WeHa school administrators
 - c. Any flyers and brochures shall be approved by Commission members at a special meeting.

Motioned by Commissioner Jacobson

Result – Approved
Unanimous

New Business:

Commissioner G. Collins – Drag Queens and Respecting Differences in Religious and Moral Beliefs

Give voice to religious observers and parents of the WeHa community who may hold reservations about the Town of West Hartford sponsoring an event (WeHa's Gay Pride Festival) with drag queen performers.

Special Meeting Date:

July 1, 2026

Next Regular Meeting Date:

September 2, 2026

Proposed Agenda Items for Special Meeting:

1. Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Group Subcommittee publicity and outreach
 2. Review of subcommittees
 3. Parameters for public comments
 4. Keeping Town of West Hartford informed of Human Rights Commission activities
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission Mission Statement

The Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of all residents. We strive to foster an inclusive and diverse community where every individual is treated respectfully and equitably, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, spiritual or religious beliefs, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, socio-economic status, immigration status, disability, present or past history of physical or mental illnesses, including but not limited to these characteristics.

Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission Meeting

6:45 p.m. June 3, 2026

In-Person Meeting: Elmwood Community
Center, Room # 212, 1106 New Britain Ave,
West Hartford, CT 06110

Public Meeting Viewing & Participation Instructions:

- Members of the public can attend the meeting in person.
- ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2026
4. Public Comments
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
 - a. Drag Queens and Respecting Differences in Religious and Moral Beliefs
7. Set agenda for next meeting: Sept. 2, 2026 (summer recess for July and August meetings)
8. Announcements
 - a. Celebrate West Hartford — June 6 & 7
 - b. West Hartford Juneteenth Community Celebration — June 14
 - c. West Hartford Pride Rally & Festival — June 27
9. Adjournment

