



ROCKVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Special Session: Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025

Virtual, via Webex

Meeting Minutes

Members: Rebecca Murphy, co-chair; Gabrielle Zwi, co-chair; Zach Huebschman, vice chair; Sarabjeet Bhutani; Rachel Blomquist; Anne Leong.

Student Ambassadors: Noah Ash, Chloe Bartlow, Ananya Govind, Ida Liben, Javaughn Stevens, Yina Zhou.

Mayor and Council Liaison: Councilmember Izola (Zola) Shaw.

Interim City Staff Liaison: Sean Sedam.

Guest: Deputy City Manager Barack Matite.

1. Convene

Co-Chair Murphy convened the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Co-Chair Murphy made a motion to approve an amended agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Blomquist.

2. Letter to the Mayor and Council Proposing the “Protecting Gender-Affirming Health Care” Ordinance

Deputy City Manager Matite presented the process for defining the goal of the commission’s task force, determining how to achieve that goal, reporting to the commission and the entire commission voting on recommendations to the Mayor and Council.

Commissioners asked questions about the process.

Task force members updated the commission about ongoing discussions of the task force’s work and priorities.

Co-Chair Murphy said the task force’s goals include protecting people who are seeking or providing gender-affirming care in Rockville and to make it so that people would not be arrested by city police for seeking care in other jurisdictions.

Deputy City Manager Matite said staff, who would possibly be a subject matter expert, would be able to help the task force identify city programs, policies and other tools to include in the report to be considered by the commission and in the commission’s recommendations. He said the task force’s goals and desired outcome would guide the conversation. The task force would develop a

timeline, e.g., for meetings between the task force and city staff, such as the City Attorney's Officer or city departments, based on the goals.

Vice Chair Huebschman said the task force should consider writing out and clearly stating its goals to submit to city staff before scheduling meetings to develop a report.

Deputy City Manager Matite said that would be very helpful.

3. Adjournment

Co-Chair Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Blomquist. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.