

**WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 7:15 p.m.
Legislative Chamber**

Ordinance Revising the Jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission.

Public Meeting called to order at 7:22 p.m.

President Slifka: Good evening, we'll call the 7:15 Public Hearing to order. This is an ordinance revising the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission. Can we have a roll call please Ms. Labrot?

Present: Councilors Cantor, Captain, Casperson, Davidoff, Doar, Hall, Kindall and Slifka.
Absent: Councilor Adler

President Slifka: Thank you. Can we have a presentation by Joe, or Ron, or both in tandem?

Mr. O'Brien: This ordinance concerns revising and actually expanding the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission. The Town's Human Rights Commission was established in 1972 and it was aimed at jurisdiction over the basis of discrimination that existed in State Law at that time. Since that time, the basis for discrimination have been expanded in State Law to include things such as sexual orientation, civil union status, marital status, present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability and so forth, so this ordinance revises the jurisdiction of the Commission to include all of the categories for which there is a State Statute prohibiting discrimination on that basis. That would bring it up to date in conformance with current law, and the impetus for this actually came from the Commission itself, specifically, David Knishkowy, had emailed my office and indicated all of the commission members had talked about expanding the jurisdiction to conform with the laws that exist now in 2013, so that's what we've done with this ordinance.

President Slifka: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Anything else from the administration? Any questions from the Council? Ok.. We will go to the sign-up sheet. Joe, if you would grab that please. Please come up, and I'd like to welcome Fiona Mohring.

Ms. Moring: Hi there, I'm Fiona Mohring, I live at 15 Pinecrest Road in West Hartford. Margaret and I are here from the Human Rights Commission. It has been defunct for several years and we wanted to just come and show our support that we are reinvigorating it for the benefit of the town and all of our residents, and just want to show our public support – I was going to say what Mr. O'Brien said, but I clearly now have no need to say that, so I just wanted to say that we are here in support of the Commission, and would hope that you would vote in favor of this. That's it.

anybody reads the transcript later, they may not be aware that the Human Rights Commission is one of our boards and commissions and is comprised of volunteers from the town, so it's very nice to see your work. Thank you very much. There appear to be no other speakers, so anything else from the Council? With that I will close the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing closed at 7:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Essie S. Labrot".

Essie S. Labrot
Town/Council Clerk

APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING