

## Onondaga County/Syracuse Commission on Human Rights

John H. Mulroy Civic Center  
11th Floor East  
421 Montgomery Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 435-3565

### 2020 Human Rights Commission Meeting Dates

Date	Location	Notes
January 22, 2020	South Side Innovation Center 2610 S. Salina St.	This was held as a board development session, NOT as a business meeting
February 26, 2020	South Side Innovation Center 2610 S. Salina St.	
March MEETING CANCELLED	South Side Innovation Center 2610 S. Salina St.	n/a
April 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	
May 20, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	
June 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	
July 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	
August 26, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	
Sept. 23, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	
October 21, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	
November 18, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	N/A
December 16, 2020	- VIRTUAL MEETING -	



# Onondaga County / Syracuse Human Rights Commission

J. Ryan McMahon II  
County Executive

Onondaga County Justice Center Oversight Committee

John H. Mulroy Civic Center, Basement Suite 19  
421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202

Phone: 315.435.3565 • Free call from Jail & Jamesville Prison: 315.435.3567

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Barrie Gewanter  
Executive Director

## AGENDA – February 26, 2020

### MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

<b>MEMBERS</b>	___ Khadijo Abdulkadir (C)	___ Chol Majok (C)	___ John Rushing (C)
<b>PRESENT:</b>	___ Sanjay Chhablani (C)	___ Suzette Melendez (C)	___ Leonardo Sanchez (C)
15 Current Term	___ Crystal Doody (C) (Phone)	___ Liban Mohamed (C)	___ Shelley Skellington (E)
2 Expired Term	___ Rabbi Dan Fellman (C)	___ Francis M. Parks (E)	___ Tricia Wittowski (C)
1 Starts in March	___ Dave Pasinski (C)	___ Rosalie Young (C)	

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mary A. Smothers (C), Barbara Johnson (C), Ali Adan (C)

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STAFF PRESENT:** Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy & Monica Williams

**COMMUNITY PRESENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Introductions** 5:30 - 5:35
- 2. Consideration of November 2019 Meeting Minutes** 5:35 – 5:40
- 3. Recognition of Visitors:** \_\_\_\_\_ 5:40 – 5:45
- 4. Highlights from Chair & Executive Director** 5:45 – 6:05
  - a. Chairs: Appointments:** New Mayoral Appointment - Migdalia Morales – *Starting in March*  
 New CE Appointment: Rev. Roosevelt Baums Starting Confirmation Process  
 4 More Open CE Positions-Right Now (Mackey, Carter, Parks, Chin)  
 2 Open Leg Positions (Murphy, Gardino) & 1 Mayor Position (Skellington)  
Speakers: Mayor (LS), CE (DF), NAACP \_\_\_, RISE \_\_\_, NAF \_\_\_, CRB (CD), La Liga \_\_\_, Q & SAGE \_\_\_  
At March Meeting: Discuss NOON Request to HRC Re: Columbus vs. Indigenous People's Day
  - b. Exec. Dir.:** New D&I Dept. Head / Need to Focus on JCOC Case Documentation Backlog Now-> Spring Meeting Notices to Be Sent by Montanette or Other Staff – PLEASE REPLY TO Barrie
- 5. Discussion of 2020 Committee Structure & Focus (Based on Jan. Meeting)** 6:05 - 6:25
  - a. Identified Issues:** Criminal Justice Issues !      Immigration Issues ?      Hate Crimes &  
 Voter & Civic Education !      Mental Health ?      Hate Speech Vigilance
  - b. 2 Suggested Committees:** **CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES**      **VOTER & CIVIC EDUCATION**  
 Bail Reform & Police Relations      Voting Process & Civics Literacy  
**Members So Far:** Tricia, John, Leo, Barb,      Suzette, Rosalie, Liban, Ali,  
 Sanjay, Chol, Crystal, \_\_\_\_\_      Dave, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Committee Discussions:** **Continuing:** Camillus PD Project      **Continuing: ? DASA ?** 6:25 – 7:00  
**Action Plans/Projects** **New: ? Bail Reform Factsheet ?** **New: ? RISE Student Workshops ?**  
**& Identify Chair(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **? SW Policy/Practice Conf ?** \_\_\_\_\_  
**? Address Immigration Issues ?** \_\_\_\_\_



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Barrie Gewanter  
Executive Director

## AGENDA – April 22, 2020

### VIRTUAL MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**MEMBERS**     \_\_\_ Khadijo Abdulkadir (C)     )     \_\_\_ Dave Pasinski (C)  
**PARTICIPATING**     \_\_\_ Ali Adan (C)     \_\_\_ Chol Majok (C)     \_\_\_ John Rushing (C)  
*17 Current Term*     \_\_\_ Sanjay Chhablani (C)     \_\_\_ Suzette Melendez (C)     \_\_\_ Leonardo Sanchez (C)  
*2 Expired Term +*     \_\_\_ Crystal Doody (C)     \_\_\_ Liban Mohamed (C)     \_\_\_ Shelley Skellington (E)  
*5 Open Positions*     \_\_\_ Rabbi Dan Fellman (C)     \_\_\_ Francis M. Parks (E)     \_\_\_ Tricia Wittowski (C)  
                              \_\_\_ Rev. Roosevelt Baums (C)     \_\_\_ Migdalia Morales (C)     \_\_\_ Rosalie Young (C)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mary A. Smothers (C), Barbara Johnson (C)

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STAFF PARTICIPATING:** Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATING:** Peggy Chase & Mary Kuhn (Co. Legislator), Mikiel Anderson

- 1. Introductions & Introductions:** Migdalia Morales & Rev. Roosevelt Baums **5:30 - 5:40**
- 2. Brief Comment on Current Situation: For You & 1 Key Community Challenge** **5:40 - 5:50**
- 3. Consideration of December 2019 & February 2020 Meeting Minutes** **5:50 - 5:55**
- 4. Recognition of Visitors:** \_\_\_\_\_ **5:55 - 6:00**
- 5. Reports & Discussion Items from Chairs, Director, Committee Chairs** **6:00 - 6:15**
  - a. Chairs: Appointments:** 4 More Open CE Positions-Right Now (Mackey, Carter, Parks, Chin)  
2 Open Leg Positions (Murphy, Gardino) & 1 Mayor Position (Skellington)  
Meeting July 22 – Mayor (LS), May 20? CRB (CD), \_\_\_ CE (DF), NAACP (CM), RISE (SC),  
Speakers: NAF (CM), La Liga (CM), Q (JCR), SAGE (BG), SPD Chief Buckner ( )
  - b. Exec. Dir.:** Working Remotely with Forwarded Calls from Office & Volunteering 2x/week  
Outreach/Tabling Events on Hold: Interfaith Works Duck Race, Pride  
Status Unknown: Juneteenth, Latino Fest, World Refugee Day Symposium & Fest
  - c. Committee Chairs:-Criminal Justice:** Crystal & Leo (*Bail Reform, Camillus PD, New Amer. KYR Cards*)  
**Voter & Civic Education:** Dave P. & Rosalie (Pre-Oath & OV New Voter Training, RISE & Hopeprint Youth Workshops)
- 6. Old Business:** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:15 - 6:20**
- 7. New Business:** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:20 - 6:25**
- 8. Announcements:** NAACP to hold online COVID19 Community Forum Thursday @ 6pm **6:25 - 6:30**
- 9. Committee Meetings:** Criminal Justice Committee **6:30 - 7:00**  
(In Separate Zoom Rooms) Voter & Civic Education Committee



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Executive Director

## AGENDA – May 20, 2020

### VIRTUAL MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

<b>MEMBERS</b>	___ Khadijo Abdulkadir (C)	___ Barbara Johnson (C)	___ Dave Pasinski (C)
<b>PARTICIPATING</b>	___ Ali Adan (C)	___ Chol Majok (C)	___ John Rushing (C)
17 Current Term	___ Sanjay Chhablani (C)	___ Migdalia Morales (C)	___ Leonardo Sanchez (C)
2 Expired Term	___ Crystal Doody (C)	___ Liban Mohamed (C)	___ Shelley Skellington (E)
5 Open Positions	___ Rabbi Dan Fellman (C)	___ Francis M. Parks (E)	___ Tricia Wittowski (C)
	___ Rev. Roosevelt Baums (C)	___ Suzette Melendez (C)	___ Rosalie Young (C)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mary A. Smothers (C)

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STAFF PARTICIPATING:** Barrie Gewanter & Montanette Murphy

**COMMUNITY PRESENT:** Mikeil Anderson Peggy Chase

1. Introductions & Discussion with Syracuse CRB Chair Peter McCarthy 5:30 - 5:50
2. Approval of Dec. 2019, February & April 2020 Meeting Minutes 5:50 – 6:00
3. Recognition of Visitors: \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 – 6:10
4. Chair's Report 6:10 – 6:20
  - Appointments 4 Open CE Positions-Right Now (Mackey, Carter, Exp. Parks, Chin)
  - To Be Filled: 2 Open Leg Positions (Murphy, Gardino) & 1 Mayor Position (Exp. Skellington)
  - Speaker Dates: Mayor July 22 (LS), CE ? (DF), NAACP, NAF, RISE, LaLiga (CM),  
Q Center (JCR), SAGE (BG), SPD Chief Buckner (?)
5. Director's Report 6:20 – 6:30
  - Current Status of Staff Work & Involvement in County COVID19 Testing in Community
  - Report on Information from NAN Chapter Re: Devices for Students Program & Related Concerns
  - Discussions about Video Versions of World Refugee Day & ADA Anniversary Celebration
6. Committee Reports: Voter & Civic Education Committee – R Young & Ali Adan 6:30 – 6:40
  - Proposal to Engage in Census Outreach
  - Proposal to Hand Out Flyers Re: COVID 19 in Several Languages
- Criminal Justice Committee – Crystal Doody & Leo Sanchez 6:40 – 7:05
  - Review & Update on Bail Reform in NY State (Sanjay Chhablani)
7. Old Business: \_\_\_\_\_ 7:05 – 7:10
9. New Business: Revisiting Whether to Hold June Board Meeting (17th or 24th ) 7:10 – 7:15
9. Announcements: \_\_\_\_\_ 7:15 – 7:20
10. Adjourn & Break into Committee Connections 7:20 – 7:30



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**Human Rights Commission**

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Executive Director

**AGENDA – June 24, 2020**

**VIRTUAL MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	___ Khadijo Abdulkadir (C)	___ Barbara Johnson (C)	___ Dave Pasinski (C)
<b>PARTICIPATING</b>	___ Ali Adan (C)	___ Chol Majok (C)	___ John Rushing (C)
17 Current Term	___ Sanjay Chhablani (C)	___ Migdalia Morales (C)	___ Leonardo Sanchez (C)
2 Expired Term	___ Crystal Doody (C)	___ Liban Mohamed (C)	___ Shelley Skellington (E)
5 Open Positions	___ Rabbi Dan Fellman (C)	___ Francis M. Parks (E)	___ Rosalie Young (C)
	___ Rev. Roosevelt Baums (C)	___ Suzette Melendez (C)	

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mary A. Smothers (C), Tricia Wittowski (C)

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STAFF PARTICIPATING:** Barrie Gewanter

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Welcome & Introductions** 5:30 - 5:35
- 2. Approval of Draft May 2020 Meeting Minutes** 5:35 - 5:40
- 3. Recognition of Visitors** 5:40 - 5:45
- 4. Discussion with Monica Williams – Chief Diversity Officer** 5:45 - 6:00
- 5. Updates:** 6:00 - 6:10
  - a. Director Items:**
    - Request for Commissioner assistance with 2 significant discrimination complaints
    - Participated in Successful March & Flag Raising Event with New American Forum
    - Supreme Court Decision that in prohibition on sex discrimination at work includes LGBTQ
  - b. Committee Updates:** 6:10 – 6:20
    - Voter & Civic Education:** Update on Distributing COVID & Census Fliers to Refugee Leaders
    - Criminal Justice Committee:** Work with Camillus PD to Resume when COVID Restrictions Lifted
- 6. Full Commission Discussion:** 6:20 – 7:00

*Commission's role & response to the state of our community right now*
- 7. Committees Break into Separate Zoom Rooms (As Needed)** 7:00 – 7:30
  - Voter & Civic Education Committee:** Co-Chairs - Ali Adan & Rosalie Young
  - Criminal Justice Committee:** Co-Chairs – Crystal Doody & Leo Sanchez



County of Onondaga  
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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County Executive

Monica Williams  
Chief Diversity Officer

**AGENDA – July 22 2020**

**VIRTUAL MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Khadijo Abdulkadir (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Johnson (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Pasinski (C)
<b>PARTICIPATING</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ali Adan (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chol Majok (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> John Rushing (C)
<b>17 Current Term</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanjay Chhablani (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Migdalia Morales (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Leonardo Sanchez (C)
<b>2 Expired Term</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Dan Fellman (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Liban Mohamed (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelley Skellington (E)
<b>5 Open Positions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. Roosevelt Baums (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Francis M. Parks (E)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tricia Wittowski (C)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Suzette Melendez (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rosalie Young (C)	

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mary A. Smothers (C), Crystal Doody (C)

**D & I STAFF PARTICIPATING:** Barrie Gewanter

**COMMUNITY MEMBER PRESENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Introductions & Discussion with City of Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh**
2. **Approval of June 2020 Meeting Minutes**
3. **Recognition of Visitors:** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Chair's Report – Rabbi Dan Fellman & Sanjay Chhablani**  
Report Back from July 2<sup>nd</sup> Zoom Meeting with Monica Williams, Dept. Diversity & Inclusion  
Speaker Dates: CE? (DF), NAACP for Aug. (BG) NAF & RISE & LaLiga (CM), Q Center (JCR), SAGE (BG)
5. **Director's Report – Barrie Gewanter**  
Update on 2 Significant Complaints: Bias Allegations by Landlord & Retail Store  
ADA Celebration Program to be broadcast on WCNY on July 26<sup>th</sup> (30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ADA)
6. **Committee Voter & Civic Education Committee – Rosalie Young & Ali Adan**  
**Updates:** Criminal Justice Committee – Leo Sanchez
7. **Discussions: Proposals for Commission Response to Calls for Police Reform**  
Proposal to Hold a Public Hearing about Impacts of Covid19 Restrictions
8. **New Business:** \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Announcements:** \_\_\_\_\_
10. **Adjourn & Set Dates for Next Committee Meetings**



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**AGENDA – August 26, 2020**  
**MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	___ Khadijo Abdulkadir (C)	___ Barbara Johnson (C)	___ Francis M. Parks (E)
<b>PARTICIPATING</b>	___ Ali Adan (C)	___ Chol Majok (C)	___ Dave Pasinski (C)
18 Current Term	___ Rev. Roosevelt Baums (C)	___ Liban Mohamed (C)	___ John Rushing (C)
1 Expired Term	___ Sanjay Chhablani (C)	___ Migdalia Morales (C)	___ Leonardo Sanchez (C)
4 Open Positions	___ Rabbi Dan Fellman (C)	___ Al-amin Muhammad (C)	___ Tricia Wittowski (C)
			___ Rosalie Young (C)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mary A. Smothers (C), Crystal Doody (C), Suzette Melendez (C)

**D & I STAFF PARTICIPATING:** Barrie Gewanter

**COMMUNITY MEMBER PRESENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Introductions & Talk with NAACP Branch President Linda Brown Robinson** 5:30 - 5:50
2. **Approval of July 2020 Meeting Minutes** 5:50 - 5:55
3. **Recognition of Visitors:** \_\_\_\_\_ 5:55 - 6:05
4. **Holding a Public Hearing in October about Impacts of Covid19 Restrictions** 6:05 – 6:20
5. **Planning for Production of Commission's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report** 6:20 - 6:30
6. **Chair's Report – Rabbi Dan Fellman & Sanjay Chhablani** 6:30 - 6:40  
Report on 8/5 (& 9/1) Public Zoom Discussions in Dewitt Moderated by HRC Representatives  
CE request for report on Commissioner Attendance at HRC Meetings in 2019-2020 & going forward  
Speaker Dates: CE? (DF), NAF & RISE & LaLiga (CM), Q Center (JCR), SAGE (BG)
7. **Director's Report – Barrie Gewanter** 6:40 - 6:50  
Update on Complaint Advocacy: Bias Allegations by Apt. Complex Tenant & Shopper Retail Store  
Assisted with March & Demonstration by Deaf New Americans at Upstate Hospital on 7/26  
Provided Access to Voter Registration forms at BLM Demonstration at City Hall on 8/1  
Report on Recent Meeting with New Centro CEO Brian Schultz
8. **Committee Updates** **Voter & Civic Education Committee** (Chairs: Rosalie Young & Ali Adan) 6:50 - 7:00  
**Criminal Justice Committee** (Chairs: Leo Sanchez & John Rushing)
9. **New Business &/or Announcements:** \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00– 7:05
10. **Adjourn into Committee Meetings (in Zoom Breakout Rooms)** 7:05 – 7:30



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*County Executive*

**Monica Williams**  
*Chief Diversity Officer*

**Agenda - September 23, 2020**  
**Meeting Human Rights Commission**

1. Welcome and recognition of visitors 5:30-5:35 pm
2. Conversation with Monica Williams, Chief Diversity Officer  
5:35-6:15 pm
3. Approval of August 2020 meeting minutes 6:15-6:20 pm
4. Chairs report given by Rabbi Daniel Fellman and Sonjay Chhablani  
6:20-6:30 pm
5. Planning for public hearing on the impact of Covid-19  
6:30 -6:50 pm
6. Directors report 6:50-7:00 pm
7. Committee updates: Voter and Civic Education (Chairs: Rosalie Young and Ali Adan)  
Criminal justice reform committee (Chairs: Leo Sanchez and John Rushing)  
7:00-7:10 pm
8. New business and announcements 7:10- 7:15pm
9. Adjourn meeting. Move into subcommittee meetings (In Zoom breakout room)  
7:15-7:30 pm





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*County Executive*

**Monica Williams**  
*Chief Diversity Officer*

**AGENDA – October 21, 2020**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**ODI STAFF PARTICIPATING:** Montanette Murphy

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>1. Attendance</b>   | <b>5:30 – 5:33</b> |
| <b>2. Introductions &amp; Welcome</b>  | <b>5:33 - 5:45</b> |
| a) Welcoming new commissioner: Mbonimpa Banabas  |                    |
| <b>3. Approval of September Minutes</b>  | <b>5:45 - 5:55</b> |
| <b>4. Recognition of Visitors:</b> (Community members allowed 2 minutes to speak.)     | <b>5:55- 6:05</b>  |
| <b>5. Update: Impacts of Covid-19 hearing –</b> Dave Pasinski, Rev. Baums, Leo Sanchez | <b>6:05 – 6:35</b> |
| <b>6. Administrator's Report:</b>  |                    |
| a) Annual Report update and information  |                    |
| b) Update/info on complaint from community member                                      |                    |
| c) Term updates  | <b>6:35 - 6:50</b> |
| <b>7. Preparing for the Commission's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report</b>                  | <b>6:50 - 7:00</b> |
| <b>8. Chair's Report – Rabbi Dan Fellman</b>   | <b>7:00 - 7:10</b> |
| <b>9. Updates from Rosalie Young, Leo Sanchez, John Rushing</b>                        | <b>7:10 - 7:20</b> |
| <b>10. New Business/ Old business/Announcements:</b>                                   | <b>7:20– 7:30</b>  |
| <b>11. Adjourn meeting</b>   | <b>7:30</b>        |



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**Monica Williams**  
*Chief Diversity Officer*

**AGENDA – December 16, 2020**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**ODI STAFF PARTICIPATING:** Montanette Murphy; Chief Diversity Officer Monica Williams

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>1. Attendance</b>  | <b>5:30 – 5:33</b> |
| <b>2. Moment of silence for Mary Alice Smothers</b>                       | <b>5:33 – 5:34</b> |
| <b>3. Introductions &amp; Welcome</b>                                     | <b>5:34 - 5:45</b> |
| <b>4. Approve Oct./Aug. minutes</b>                                       | <b>5:45 - 5:55</b> |
| <b>5. Recognition of Visitors:</b> (Community members allowed 2 minutes.) | <b>5:55- 6:05</b>  |
| <b>6. Update: Follow-up on Covid-19 hearing</b>                           | <b>6:05 – 6:30</b> |
| a) Feedback, comments   |                    |
| <b>7. Administrator's Report:</b>   | <b>6:30 - 6:40</b> |
| a) Annual Report prep: Pictures of commissioners                          |                    |
| b) Info on complaint from community member                                |                    |
| c) Term updates   |                    |
| <b>8. Preparing for 2020 HRC Annual Report</b>                            | <b>6:40 - 7:00</b> |
| <b>9. Chair's Report – Rabbi Dan Fellman</b>                              | <b>7:00 - 7:10</b> |
| <b>10. Updates from commissioners</b>                                     | <b>7:10 - 7:15</b> |
| <b>11. New Business/ Old business/Announcements:</b>                      | <b>7:15– 7:20</b>  |
| <b>12. Adjourn meeting</b>  | <b>7:30</b>        |