



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Onondaga County/Syracuse Human Rights Commission

Monica Williams
CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

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Montanette Rocker
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Pending approval ONONDAGA COUNTY/SYRACUSE HRC MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2025, ONONDAGA COUNTY/SYRACUSE HRC Meeting

*******Hybrid meeting: In-person and virtual *******

_ Chairman H. Bernard Alex	_ Adam Leslie
_ Mary Grace Almandrez	_ Agnes McCray
_ Duane L. Reese II	_ Paul Harvey
_ Lauren Rosenstein	_ Lyla Hua (appointed June 18, 2025)
_ Julianna Sanford (appt. Aug. 21, 2025)	_ Taylor McFadden (appt. Aug. 21, 2025)

Absent: Chairman Bernard Alex, Commissioners Duane Reese, Julianna Sanford, Taylor McFadden.

Present: Commissioners Mary Grace Almandrez, Lauren Rosenstein, Adam Leslie, Lyla Hua, Agnes McCray and Paul Harvey joined virtually.

County staff present: Anthony Heard, Montanette Rocker and Monica Williams

Opening: In-person session began at 5:35 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Community members present: None

Report and updates from ODI admin: None

Minutes and agenda: Neither were approved. Lacked a quorum.

Discussion: What we learned from the Oct. 22, 2025, Police-Community forum on 21st Century Policing: What we got right and what we'd like to do at the next forum.

Upcoming HRC events: International Human Rights Day 2025 plus goals and objectives for 2026. The Commission plans to write a letter to the Editor recognizing International Human Rights Day. Commissioner McCray has written a Letter to the Editor. Monica Williams suggested talking about the Oct. 22 Law Enforcement/Community conversation on 21st century policing and discussed the identity and role of the HRC and the Commission's plans for 2026. A draft of the Letter to the Editor will be sent out. The Commission decided it would not hold a cultural fair in the Banner Room of the Civic Center since it has not prepared to host such an event. Looking to 2026 to do a cultural fair centered around International Human Rights Day 2026.

Oct. 22, 2025, Law Enforcement and Community conversation on policing.

Here are the takeaways:

- Sending the questions to the law enforcement agencies was a plus.
- "Thank You" letter will be sent to law enforcement panelists.
- Create letterhead with all the names of Commissioners alongside the letterhead.
- HRC has to be able to have a platform.
- Say in thank-you letter the HRC plans to host another discussion with law enforcement



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(Continued) Oct. 22, 2025, Law Enforcement and Community conversation on policing.

Here are the takeaways:

- An idea: Make the event Zoom accessible or livestream.
- It was suggested: Livestreaming the event might be better.
- Media alert – Can we do that, sending out a press release, a 30 second ad?
- Ask the organization to join the conversation. Have organizations invite their network.
- Agnes wants to have a table at the next HRC forum; she was also asked to speak at law enforcement events that are coming up in 2026.
- Commissioner Mary Grace gave an overview of the police/community forum.
- Commissioners should have taken a picture at the Oct. 22nd forum.
- Event should have been advertised much better; needs much better marketing.
- Sticky notes soliciting comments/feedback from forum participants is a good idea – mw
- Everyone agreed Mary Grace was superb as moderator. She has been designated as the moderate ad infinitum.
- Agnes realized there is trust between law enforcement officials, the HRC and community. She added it felt like the law enforcement officials were connected to the HRC.
- HRC should put the word out and partner with other for the next public event – mw
- HRC should set a precedent and determine who the target audience will be.
- We were prepared for the community; Commissioner Almandrez did well as moderator
- Commissioner Mary Grace appreciated the Law Enforcement officials awareness of the lack of diversity in certain spaces.

Meeting ended at 6:20

Minutes submitted by Montanette Rocker on 11/24/2025