MINUTES
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 19, 2022

Present: Commissioners Anthony Mangiafico (left at 5:43 pm), Jennifer Billingsley, Christine Rebstock, Dan Barry, Sandy Aldieri, Laura Timmons, Dolly Haddad, Cayes Jarda, and Beth Shapiro. Staff: Assistant General Counsel Christopher Forte.

Members of the Public: Haley Stafford, Ayanna McKennon, Robert Crowley, Jill Echevarria, Captain John Lozefski, and Officer Botsacos.

1. Call to Order by Chair. Chairperson Mangiafico called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the March 15, 2022 Regular Meeting of the LGBTQIA+ Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 15, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Aldieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:34 p.m.

3. Public Session on Agenda Items. None.


MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to add an agenda item for the Adoption of Pride Resolution for 2022 to the agenda. Commissioner Billingsley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:35 p.m.

A. Adoption of Pride Resolution for 2022. Commissioner Mangiafico drafted a Pride Resolution to be read at the June meeting of the Common Council that provides an overview of significant events in national, state, and local LGBTQIA+ history.

MOTION: Commissioner Timmons made a motion to recommend approval of the Pride Resolution, and to move it to the Common Council for their June meeting. Commissioner Rebstock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:39 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to add an agenda item for Election of Chairperson Pro Tem to the agenda. Commissioner Haddad seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:41 p.m.
B. Election of Chairperson Pro Tem. Commissioner Timmons was nominated to serve as Chairperson Pro Tem in the absence of Commissioner Mangiafico.

MOTION: Commissioner Jarda made a motion to serve as Chairperson Pro Tem for the remainder of the meeting. Commissioner Rebstock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:42 p.m.

C. Invitation for Commissioners to attend Pride events around the state.
   2. *Bethel Pride (May 7, 2022).* Commissioners Jarda, Rebstock and Timmons interested in attending.
   3. *New Britain Pride Flag Raising (June 6, 2022).* Commissioners Rebstock and Jarda interested in attending.
   4. *Pride in the Park (June 11, 2022).* Commissioners Rebstock and Jarda interested in attending.
   5. *Juneteenth (June 19, 2022).* Commissioners Timmons, Billingsley, Shapiro, Aldieri, Rebstock and Jarda interested in participating.

5. Old Business.

A. Safety for LGBTQIA+ Community in Middletown (Commissioner Timmons). Commissioner Timmons updated the commission the Lesbian Day of Visibility is coming up and should be recognized. Commissioner Timmons also reserved a room at the Russell Library as a safe space for people to come talk about any safety or security issues they feel in Middletown, and will continue to provide updates to the Commission.

B. Update on Commission Initiatives.

1. **Q+ Partnership Update (AGC Forte).** Q+ will be commencing the bi-weekly youth group this month, and the Commission will be updated once the dates/schedule is set.

2. **LGBTQIA+ 101 Training on April 21 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm (AGC Forte).** Middletown Pride will be hosting a free LGBTQIA+ 101 training for local businesses at the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. Local businesses and organizations are encouraged to attend, and upon completion of the training, they will receive a Middletown Pride safe space sticker.

3. **Earth Day Spring Event on April 23 at Harbor Park (Russell Library).** Middletown Pride will be tabling at the Earth Day Spring Event, and will include information about Lesbian Day of Visibility and the Day of Silence. Middletown Pride will also be hosting a Drag Artist Story Hour at 1 pm.
C. Planning for Middletown Pride 2022.

MOTION: Commissioner Shapiro made a motion to add an agenda item for a discussion of Photography for Middletown Pride to the agenda. Commissioner Rebstock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 6:02 p.m. Commissioner Mangiafico was absent for the vote.

1. Photography for Middletown Pride. Commissioner Aldieri asked if the Commissioners knew of anyone who would be able to assist in providing photography services during pride month. Commissioner Aldieri will be coordinating these services again this year for Middletown Pride. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude for Commissioner Aldieri providing these services each year.

2. LGBTQIA+ Artist Takeover of City Hall (AGC Forte). No updates.

3. Pride Flag Raising and Kick-Off on June 1 (AGC Forte). June 1 Flag Raising (Commissioner Rebstock). No updates.

4. Middletown Pride Charity Event on June 3 (Mia).

   1. Selection of Charity to Support. AGC Forte reminded the Commissioners of the list of charities they developed during the February meeting. Commissioners stated that they would like to support the New Haven Pride Center and the Triangle Community Center.

MOTION: Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to recommend approval to select the New Haven Pride Center and Triangle Community Center as two organizations to support from the June 3 Pride Charity Event. Commissioner Shapiro seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 6:16 p.m.

5. Middletown PrideFEST on June 4 (AGC Forte and Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce). Haley Stafford provided updates on the status of PrideFEST, and updated the Commission that nearly all performer contracts have been signed and received on time.


8. Wesleyan Movie Night on June 24 (AGC Forte). No updates.

9. Downtown Main Street Cleanup with Cinder & Salt (Russell Library). No updates.
10. **Events with Q+ (Russell Library).** Ayanna McKennon updated the Commission on the status of these events. More information to come at next meeting.
   
   1. **Silent Disco (June 12)**
   2. **Youth Open Mic Night (June 26)**
   3. **Craft Night (June 22)**

11. **Event to Honor Activists during Middletown Pride on June 30 (Commissioner Rebstock and Middlesex County Historical Society).** AGC Forte informed Commissioner Rebstock that he will connect her with Jesse Nasta from the Historical Society so that they can collaborate on this event.

12. **Transgender and Intersex Panel (Russell Library and Commissioner Timmons).** Commissioner Timmons updated the Commission that this will be a fall event.

13. **Self-Defense Classes for the community (Commissioners Santacroce and Barry).** No updates.

6. **Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rebstock made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jarda seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously at 6:39 p.m. Commissioner Mangiafico was absent for the vote.