

Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council  
March 11, 2022 – 2:15pm EDT (Virtual)  
Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Hon. Doug Lavine and Amy Lin Meyerson, Co-Chairs

2. Roll Call

Council members present were: Amy Lin Meyerson, Douglas Lavine, Michael Bloom, Corrie Betts, Jason Chang, Rabbi Farbman, Andrew Feinstein, Steven Ginsburg, Rathanak Keo, Diana Lombardi, Tamara Lanier, Gary MacNamara, Robin McHaelen, Duane Lovello, John Merz, Fernando Muniz, Aida Monsoor, MD Rahman, Jonathan Slifka, Richard Wilson, Tashun Bowden-Lewis, James Rovella, Cecil Thomas, Christopher Ferace, and Jack Doyle.

Also in attendance were: Brett Salafia, Tom Scanlon, James Tulin, Stephne Behrend, and Daniel White.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the February 18, 2022 meeting were moved for approval by Lavine and seconded Betts. Motion approved.

4. Format of Report and Recommendations in Annual Report

a. Table of Contents

b. Example Report of the Task Force to Improve Access to Legal Counsel in Civil Matters  
[https://www.cga.ct.gov/jud/tfs/20160729\\_Task%20Force%20to%20Improve%20Access%20to%20Legal%20Counsel%20in%20Civil%20Matters/Final%20Report.pdf](https://www.cga.ct.gov/jud/tfs/20160729_Task%20Force%20to%20Improve%20Access%20to%20Legal%20Counsel%20in%20Civil%20Matters/Final%20Report.pdf)

Cecil Thomas, who participated on both the Civil Gideon and CBA Policing Task Force, provided information on the process, preparation and submission of final reports from both of those task forces.

5. Subcommittee Reports

a. Community Awareness (Chang, Ginsburg, Betts)

Preparing recommendations to submit to Council. Presenters at next meeting will be John Frassinelli, State Department of Education, Sherry Haller, Justice Education Center, and Lorraine Tiven, VP for Education of the national ADL. Lavine suggests looking into establishing a rapid response team.

b. Hate Crimes Reporting and Analysis (Lanier, Wilson)

Working in four subcommittees: Hate incidents (Chaired by Lovello), Police Reporting (Chaired by Wilson), Victim Community Relations (Chaired by Thomas), and Data Analytics (Chaired by Michelle Q.). Focused on SB217 and suggestions were included in the bill. Further discussing collection of hate incidents by law enforcement or another agency.

- c. Restitution Programs and Sentencing (Lavine)  
No present need for enhanced penalties in current state law and existence of federal penalties available as well. Comments from Jack Doyle, State's Attorney's designee.
- d. Law Enforcement Training and Best Practices (MacNamara)  
Follow up meeting with FBI to collaborate with state system. Follow up with NYPD Hate Crime Council. Concept of victims and victim referrals (like domestic violence cases) can refer to domestic violence group in state. Discussing what do officers do when encountering a hate crime victim and where referral should be made. Multi-disciplinary cases like child abuse may be one avenue. Sharing best practices and identifying departmental overlap underway.
- e. Administrative (Samy, Meyerson)  
Follow up work on potential state and federal grant funds.

#### 6. New Business

a. Raised S.B. No. 217, Session Year 2022, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE AND REQUIRING DEVELOPMENT OF A REPORTING SYSTEM, BEST PRACTICES AND A MODEL INVESTIGATION POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS REGARDING HATE CRIMES.

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=SB00217&which\\_year=2022](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB00217&which_year=2022)

Commissioner Rovella reported on the bill and work of the state police on hate crimes.

b. Volunteers solicited for drafting annual report, proposed legislation and policy

7. Other Business None.

8. Announcements Next meeting is April 8, 2022 at 2:15 p.m. EDT.

9. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. EDT.