

Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council
April 8, 2022, 2:15 p.m. EDT (Virtual)
Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and call to order – Hon. Doug Lavine and Amy Lin Meyerson, Co-Chairs.
 - a. The meeting started about 10 minutes late because some members mistakenly clicked on the link previously sent for a Zoom meeting. However, this meeting and future meetings will be conducted on Teams. Judge Lavine suggested that members erase any still existing Zoom links.

2. Roll Call.

Council members present were: Amy Lin Meyerson, Douglas Lavine, John Doyle, Tashun Bowden-Lewis, Rabbi Farbman, Steven Ginsburg, Rathanak Keo, Diana Lombardi, Tamara Lanier, Duane Lovello, Robin McHaelen, Steven Hernandez, MD Rahman, Jonathan Slifka, Richard Wilson, James Rovella, and Christopher Ferace.

Also in attendance were: Brett Salafia, Tom Scanlon, Beverly Stein, Jake Joseph, Stacey Sobel, Yang Chen and CT-N.

3. The guest speaker, Yang Chen, was taken out of order because he had to leave at 3 p.m. He is the Executive Director of the Asian American Bar Association of New York. (AABANY). He has held the position since 2009. Founded in 1989, the Asian-American Bar Association is the largest affinity bar association in New York. Its members include attorneys, judges, law professors, and others in the legal field. Its mission is to improve the study and practice of law, and the fair administration of justice for all by ensuring the meaningful participation of Asian-Americans in the legal profession. Yang discussed a number of topics relating to the increase against members of the Asian-American community and stated that the present situation was having a significant effect on the lives of Asian-Americans in this country. Much of his discussion flowed from the report issued by AABANY with the assistance of Paul Weiss, *A Rising Tide of Hate and Violence against Asian Americans in New York During Covid-19: Impact, Causes, Solutions*, a comprehensive report analyzing the issue. Yang discussed problems with gathering statistics and concerns about their inaccuracy. He also mentioned that he and other members of AABANY have been meeting regularly for over a year to strategize about what can be done by way of solutions. He said a second report, dealing with recommendations, will be coming out soon. Judge Lavine said he thought the second report would assist the HCAC in its task.

4. Subcommittee reports.

- a. Judge Lavine asked members to report on their progress in firming up their expected recommendations, and reminded everyone, once again,

that the goal is to have a written product by June 1. Co-chair Meyerson agreed. The reports indicated, generally, that the subcommittees have not yet reduced any of their recommendations to writing, but Judge Lavine stressed the importance of doing that in light of the deadline fast approaching.

5. The minutes of March 11 were approved unanimously.
6. There was no new business.
7. There was no other business.
8. It was announced that the next meeting would be held on Friday, May 13, at 2:15 p.m.
9. The meeting was adjourned at about 3:15 p.m.