

Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council
February 18, 2022 2:15 pm ET (Virtual)
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order- Hon. Doug Lavine and Amy Lin Meyerson.

2. Roll call

Council members present were: Douglas Lavine, Amy Lin Meyerson, Jason Chang, Andrew Feinstein, Rathanak Keo, Diana Lombardi, Duane Lovello, John Merz, Aida Monsoor, MD Rahman, Jonathan Slifka, Richard Wilson, Tashun Bowden-Lewis, James Rovella, Sharad Samy, Cecil Thomas, Rashmi Chandra, Len Rodriguez, and Michelle Querijero.

Also in attendance were: Brett Salafia, Tom Scanlon, two representatives from the DESPP HCU, Beverly Stein, James Tulin, Stacey Sobel, and Brian Foley.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2022.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Reports of progress to date were made by chairs of the following subcommittees: Community Awareness (Chang, Ginsburg, Betts); Hate Crimes Reporting and Analysis (Lanier, Wilson) Restitution Programs and Sentencing (Lavine); Law Enforcement Training and Best Practices (MacNamara); Administrative (Samy, Meyerson). Judge Lavine urged the subcommittees to meet regularly. He reminded Council members that each subcommittee was being asked to file an initial report outlining recommendations relating to their subject matter by June 1. At this stage, he said, much of the hard work was being left in the hands of subcommittee members. He urged chairmen of the subcommittees to try to keep their committees, and working groups established under them, on track.

5. Speaker: Diana Lombardi, MSW, Executive Director of the Connecticut Trans Advocacy Coalition, discussed the issue of hate crimes and harassment directed towards members of the trans community in our state and nationwide. Diana's talk was accompanied by visual aids explicating various of her topics, including statistical information about the number of attacks on trans people, the number of murders, the fact that Black women are frequent victims of assaults and murders, and related topics. Speaking from personal experience, Diana discussed the kinds of insults and harassment directed toward trans people—frequently women—on a daily basis. She made it clear that the issue of hate crimes directed against the trans community was of great concern to that community and that this community often feels their concerns are minimized or ignored. Council members directed a number of question at Diana following her talk.

6. New business

There was no new business.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 11, 2022 at 2:15 pm.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at around 3:30 p.m.