

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls

Dawn Forbes DiStefano  
Michelle Goncalves  
Patricia Hallberg

Gabrielle Jackson  
Tara Marshall

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Jennifer Metsch  
Lizzy Ortiz  
Shanique Spalding

TOWN OF LUDLOW

January 6, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

Let this serve as notice pursuant to Open Meeting Law, M.G.L.c. 30A sections 18-25 of a meeting of the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls (HCCSWG).

On April 25, 2017, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women inaugurated nine commissioners to a newly formed regional commission created to study and report the status of women and girls in Hampden County. The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is "a state-established body charged with reviewing the status of women in Massachusetts and offering recommendations regarding policy that would improve access to opportunities and equality." The regional commissions have been created to target specific geographical regions to make sure that the needs of women across the state are met.

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2021, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. In light of current public health recommendations for social distancing and state restrictions around public gatherings, and in observance of the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Required Provisions of the Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c.30A, §20 dated March 12, 2020), this meeting will take place online at:**

<https://zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkQT09>

**Attendees are asked to contact [hccswg@gmail.com](mailto:hccswg@gmail.com) in advance of the meeting to receive the meeting password.**

This meeting is open to the public, and we encourage members of the community to attend. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting will be set aside for members of the public to present anything they wish the Commission to consider. Anyone who wishes to speak during this allotted time should email the HCCSWG Chairperson, Gabrielle Jackson, at [HCCSWG@gmail.com](mailto:HCCSWG@gmail.com) with their intention so the HCCSWG may plan accordingly. Members of the public will only be recognized by the Commission to speak during the opening public presentation segment, and only if prior notice is provided.

Sincerely,

Tara Marshall  
Secretary, HCCSWG

**Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls**

**Agenda**

January 14, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Online via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkOT09>

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Public Speak Out (15 min.)
- III. Approval of minutes from December 10, 2020
- IV. Chair Report
- V. Vice-Chair Report
- VI. Discussion with our featured guest, Ami Jackson, staff Criminal Defense Investigator for the Springfield Office of the Youth Advocacy Department.

HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS PRESENTS:

# January Public Meeting

Thursday, January 14th  
6:00PM



**Featured Guest**  
**Ami Jackson**  
Criminal Defense Investigator  
Springfield Office of the Youth Advocacy Division

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VII. Old Business

- a. Collaboration with Hampshire-Franklin
  - i. Trivia Night idea - Michelle G.
- b. Coffee Chat Winter Events Updates
  - i. 1/19 - Michelle Goncalves, extended as a leadership event
  - ii. 1/27 - Lizzy Ortiz
  - iii. Gabrielle, Jen (Hampshire-Franklin) TBD

VIII. New Business

- a. Update: Swearing in of recommended Commissioner, Jacqueline Velez
- b. February 11th Featured Guest- Erika Slocumb
- c. March 11th Featured Guest - Michelle Equale
- d. April 8th Featured Guest - Dr. Neena Qasba (To be confirmed)
- e. Planning for International Women's Day

IX. Upcoming Statewide Events:

- a. **1/6/2021** 4:00pm - 5:00pm Budget and Personnel Committee Mtg  
<https://zoom.us/j/98654668479>
- b. **1/7/2021** 5:00pm-7:00pm Regional Commission Convening  
<https://zoom.us/j/91314461416?pwd=QW8vcEU1NHlEweGZHVTF5bGkrQWVGdz09>
- c. **1/11/2021** 8:00am-9:30pm Legislative Committee Mtg  
<https://zoom.us/j/95199409244>
- d. **1/12/2021** 6:00pm - 7:00pm Program and Planning Committee Mtg  
<https://zoom.us/j/91453458116>
- e. **1/13/2021** 5:00pm – 6:00pm Girls Initiative Ad Hoc Mtg  
<https://zoom.us/j/93051636215>

X. Adjournment

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**ABOUT OUR JANUARY FEATURED GUEST:**



Ami R. Jackson is the staff Criminal Defense Investigator the Youth Advocacy Division. Ms. Jackson holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Administration from Westfield State University. Previously, she worked as an Academic Advisor for Upward Bound, a college preparation program for low-income, first-generation college-bound youth that is funded by the US Department of Education. Additionally, she has worked as a community activist, event coordinator, and outreach

worker with Arise for Social Justice W.I.S.E. Committee (Women In Support of Each Other), a grass roots low-income rights, anti-oppression membership organization in western Massachusetts. Its focus is to educate and support women and children who were/are homeless, drug addicted, incarcerated, in danger of incarceration, or returning to the community from a term of incarceration. Ms. Jackson was the 2019 recipient of the Committee for Public Counsel Services Maria Souto-Armand Goyette Investigator Award.

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