

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Minutes- DRAFT

January 14, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkQT09>

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call by Gabrielle at 6:06 PM
 - A. Tara Marshall
 - B. Gabrielle Jackson
 - C. Shanique Spalding
 - D. Lizzy Ortiz
 - E. Jennifer Metsch
 - F. Not here Patricia Hallberg and Jackie Velez
 - G. Dawn Distefano
- II. Public Speak Out (15 Minutes) Gabrielle welcomed our guests from the public. We have several guests today to listen to our featured guest. Offered to have anyone speak and no one chose to speak out so we went right to our featured guest.
- III. Discussion with our featured guest, Ami Jackson, staff Criminal Defense Investigator for the Springfield Office of the Youth Advocacy Department
- IV. Gabrielle read Ami Jackson's bio and gave the floor to her:



A. Bio: 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 grassroots 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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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

- V. CONGRATS TO DAWN FOR HER PROMOTION TO PRESIDENT OF SQUARE ONE!!!
- VI. Chair Report mixed with New/Old Business
 - A. Will provide info with regional chair meeting when it happens
 - B. Convening of all regional commissioners last week. Discussed issues coming out of pandemic. Shanique was in the legislative breakout group and mentioned they are wanting people to participate. Getting suggestions on what the legislative agenda should be. Do we have a legislative process of what we want to have done for our region. Interested in finding what our regional priorities are and then finding the legislation that matches. Maybe form a subcommittee. Bill filing

deadline is 2/19/21. Gabrielle suggested we yield a legislative slot for Shanique in each meeting. Michelle was also in attendance of the meeting and in the event breakout they suggested to include the phone link along with the zoom link for people without internet.

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- C. Gabrielle suggested a subcommittee meeting to discuss legislation. Shanique said it would have to be public and proper notification posted. Discussion about how to do it happened. Need to think about logistics. Also, Tara and Shanique have to be sworn in again. Tara said where they can go to get sworn in that is open:
1. Secretary of the Commonwealth
 2. Western District Office
 3. 436 Dwight St., Rm. 102
 4. Springfield, MA 01103
 5. Cathy.molta@state.ma.us
 6. 413-784-1376
- D. Jennifer mentioned she cannot advocate for legislation but can help behind the scenes. Mentioned Senator Lesser would love to attend our meeting. Shanique mentioned if we find legislation we want to have sponsored or co-sponsored perhaps we could have a forum with our legislators to introduce ourselves and build relationships and ask for sponsorship.
- E. Gabrielle will be sending a doodle poll to pick a date for a second meeting before Feb.
- F. Coffee chat discussion. This month Lizzy and Michelle. Michelle 1/19 6pm focusing on women and art. Lizzy's is on the 27th. Gabrielle suggested that Shanique do a coffee chat specifically focussed on legislation. Tara will be having a housing focused coffee chat with Becky Jean Thompson.
- G. Jennifer discussed covid vaccine and will be providing info as she receives it. Suggested to have Dawn's daughter join us to discuss the vaccine in detail.
- H. Discussed incorporating facebook live into our meetings or events.
- I. Featured speaker ideas/confirmations through May. Feb is Erica Slocum, March is Michelle Equal (?), April is Dr. Neena Kazba (?), May is going to be Shaitia. Tara mentioned that Shaitia told her that she is our new liaison to the MA commission.

J. Gabrielle brought up trivia night. She will take the lead on figuring out how that could work.

VII. Gabrielle made a motion to approve December meeting minutes, Jennifer seconded, All in favor and no opposition.

VIII. Adjournment. Gabrielle did a quick meeting wrap up and confirmed everything that we discussed. Made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm, Jennifer moved and Shanique seconded.

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