

**DANVERS HUMAN RIGHTS & INCLUSION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting of Wednesday, December 30, 2020**

In accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing, a meeting of the Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committee was held on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 11:00 AM via WebEx video conference call.

Committee members present: Dutrochet Djoko, Chair; Paul Pawlak, Vice Chair; Charles Desmond; Robert Gamer; William Graham; Donna Hopkins; Sally Kerans; David McKenna

Liaisons Present: Eric Crane, School Committee; David Mills, Select Board; Rev. Douglas Vooyo, Interfaith Partnership

Staff Present: Eileen Page, Human Resources

Not Present: Lt. Robert Sullivan, Danvers Police; Jorge Sanchez-Salazar; Cathy Sullivan-Bradley

With a quorum present, Mr. Djoko called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.

**Discuss and Vote Drum Major for Justice Award Recipient**

Dr. Keith Motley was nominated for the 2021 Drum Major for Justice award by Dr. Desmond.

Dr. Desmond proposed Dr. Motley as a candidate for the 2021 award. Dr. Motley is the former Chancellor of UMass Boston, which is recognized as the most diverse college in New England. Dr. Motley recently served on the search committee for the president of the Boston Foundation, and currently serves as the Chair of the Urban League of Massachusetts, which provides assistance with job search, education, housing, and food insecurity.

Mr. Gamer supported giving the award to Dr. Motley.

Ms. Kerans supported giving the award to Dr. Motley.

Mr. Graham supported giving the award to Dr. Motley.

Mr. Pawlak stated that he recalled Dr. Motley being nominated for the award several years ago. Dr. Djoko noted that Dr. Motley does not list receiving the award on his resume.

Mr. Mills stated that while he believes Dr. Motley is a worthy candidate, he would like to see the award given to a Danvers resident.

Dr. Desmond suggested awarding Dr. Motley a Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Hopkins agreed and suggested that the Drum Major for Justice Award be given to Town Manager Steve Bartha.

Dr. Djoko stated that there had not been enough discussion on the topic to award Mr. Bartha the Drum Major for Justice Award at this time.

Mr. Mills expressed concerns that awarding Mr. Bartha with the Drum Major for Justice award could stir up the same tensions that Mr. Bartha faced over the summer regarding the Thin Blue Line controversy. He also noted that Mr. Bartha is currently leading a working group that is actively working to build bridges and improve relations with the police department, and the Committee should avoid disrupting that work.

- *Vote: Dr. Desmond moved to award the Drum Major for Justice Award to Dr. Motley. Ms. Kerans seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

**New Business**

None.

- *Vote: Mr. McKenna moved to adjourn. Mr. Pawlak seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

The Committee adjourned at 11:56 AM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page  
12.30.2020*