

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

September 2, 2015

Commission Meeting

September and October Get Energized! Walking Series

12:15pm Wednesdays, leaving from Sennott Park

September 3 Women and Words! A Discussion on Women's Health and Cancer

7–8:30pm City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, Cambridge, 2nd Floor Conference Room

September 22 Women in Cambridge: Cambodian Cambridge School

6pm Elephant Walk, 2067 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

October 7 Candlelight vigil for Massachusetts victims of domestic violence

6pm Steps of Cambridge City Hall

October 28 Launch of the Cambridge Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative

4pm – Community Appreciation Reception 4:30pm – Program Cambridge City Hall, Sullivan Chambers

Minutes

Programming Updates

We have Women&Words speakers lined up until June. If you have speaker ideas for September or December 2016, let Emily or Kimberly know.

Women in Cambridge is now up to 600+ members. Our next event is September 22. Please come. If you have ideas for venues around Cambridge to host our monthly networking event, or brief speakers for events, let Emily or Kimberly know.

Cambridge Domestic and Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative

Liz Speakman, coordinator of the *Cambridge Domestic and Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative*, met with the Women's Commission to discuss the Initiative's work.

Purpose Statement:

The initiative seeks to engage and mobilize Cambridge's communities, agencies and City departments to change attitudes, behaviors, policies and practices to prevent and bring attention to domestic and gender-based violence. In collaboration with community leaders, local agencies and interested citizens, the initiative will develop and provide accessible, safe and relevant strategies and resources to prevent and respond to domestic violence within all communities in Cambridge.

The work of the DGBV Initiative will:

- Be informed by a broad range of Cambridge communities with particular emphasis on communities of color and non-English speaking language groups traditionally underrepresented

in decision-making leadership; also essential to a strong and informed collaborative are youth and GLBTQ communities

- Recognize that gender-based violence is connected to societal sexism and unequal power in relationships and as such, see men's participation as essential to the work as advancing women's empowerment and dignity
- Collaborate with survivors to develop strategies and resources that consider their safety and well-being
- Engage youth to challenge narrow gender roles and redefine relationships
- View gender-based violence holistically and acknowledge economic, racial and social injustice as well as the pervasive presence of violence
- Be framed by multi-cultural perspectives that invite innovative, creative ideas and engage in restorative approaches
- Rely on deeply formed partnerships as well as foster expanded relationships with City departments, agencies, community groups and grassroots organizations
- Commit to continually evaluate our efforts and progress