

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

September 14, 2016

Commission Meeting

Upcoming Events

October 5, 6pm **Domestic Violence Vigil**
City Hall front steps, 795 Massachusetts Ave

October 5, 6:30pm **CCSW Meeting (with dinner)**
Women's Commission Office, 51 Inman Street second floor

October 18, 6pm **Women in Cambridge networking event**
Mayor Denise Simmons' Office, 795 Massachusetts Ave

October 19, 7pm **Author Discussion with Kathleen Cash, *Sex, Shame, and Violence: A Revolutionary Practice of Public Storytelling in Poor Communities***
Cambridge Main Library

November 9, 6pm **dinner**, 6:30pm **CCSW Meeting**
Women's Commission Office, 51 Inman Street second floor

November 14, 6pm **Women in Cambridge networking event**
The Abbey, 1755 Massachusetts Ave, Porter Square

December 1, 7pm **Women and Words: Celebrating Transition House 40 Years**
City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway

December 14, 6pm **dinner**, 6:30pm **CCSW Meeting**
Women's Commission Office, 51 Inman Street second floor

Minutes

Programming Updates

- This summer, the Women's Commission and the Community Development Department led weekly walks around different areas of Cambridge, each with a different theme. Emily led two women's history related walks and appeared on CCTV's Neighbor Media for Women's Equality Day. The Women's Commission is also working with CCTV on the continued development of an app that would guide people around Cambridge on women's history walking tours.
- In the spring, students at CRLS staged a walkout to protest the culture of sexual harassment and gender inequality at CRLS. Since then, Kimberly has been working with Mayor Simmons, the students, and community partners on how to address the pressing issues that were raised by the students, including the handling of harassment and assault cases, dress code, and other Title IX violations.

The commission felt very strongly that more outreach needs to be done to the School Committee to hear where they stand on the issues that the students brought up. In addition, we discussed the importance of having school administration be more transparent in their process. The consensus was that changing the *culture* and not just the *policies* at CRLS was critical to a positive and safe learning environment for all students.

Commissioners are going to reach out to community members and talk to some of the parents of children at CRLS to see what can be done assist the students in gaining a response to the demands that were raised in the spring.

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month is October. We will have our annual vigil on October 5 at 6pm on the steps of City Hall.

Additionally, we are hosting a community discussion on domestic violence prevention -- *A Revolutionary Practice of Public Storytelling: Addressing Violence against Women through Community Conversation*, led by author and educator Kathleen Cash on October 19, 7-8pm at the Cambridge Main Library. Kathleen Cash, Ed.D, author of *Sex, Shame and Violence: A Revolutionary Practice of Public Storytelling in Poor Communities (2016)*, creates and conducts Community Narrative Practice programs in sexual and reproductive health, children's rights, violence towards women and girls, and environmental education for adults and youth both nationally and internationally.