

PRESS RELEASE

City of Beacon Commission on Human Relations Sponsors a Public Forum

On Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at 8:00 pm, the City of Beacon Commission on Human Relations will sponsor a public forum for the community at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main Street, Beacon. The theme of the forum is “The Beacon Human Relations Commission at Work.” The program’s featured speakers include Beacon Mayor Steve Gold, Imam Abdullah Wajid, Ernest Martinez and Kim Faison. The program will be moderated by Commissioner Fonda Muhammad and followed by a brief question and answer period. Topics of discussion will include human relations interactions within the community, their potential impact on housing needs and other public services, and the continued need for Beacon’s Human Relations Commission at a time when other communities have dissolved public agencies dedicated to fostering and improving human relations. This forum may become the first in a series of public forums addressing the concerns of the citizens of Beacon. There is no charge to attend the forum and reservations are not required. For additional information about the forum, call Chris Ruhe at 845-464-5163.

The City of Beacon Commission on Human Relations was established to serve the residents and businesses located within the city of Beacon, as created by Part I/Chapter 5/Article II/Section 5-8 in the City of Beacon Code, as conferred by Article 12 D-Commissions on Human Rights Law in the New York State General Municipal Consolidated Law Code. The Commission’s primary objectives are to: create a climate of understanding among all racial, ethnic and religious groups; inquire into incidents of conflict within the community; inquire into allegations of discrimination in work, housing and public services; and enlist community cooperation to foster mutual esteem, equity and justice in all areas of community life. Additionally, the Commission has the authority to investigate, refer and report on allegations of unlawful discrimination; to interact with the business and labor communities and public and private agencies; to hold public meetings; and to issue publications and reports to the Beacon City Council.

The Commission is wholly staffed by Beacon volunteers who are vetted and appointed by the City Council and the Mayor. The Commission is comprised of Co-Chairs Marcia Fraham and Chris Ruhe; Secretary Dr. Keith Milkove; and Commissioners Dorothy Paulin, Joseph Glauda, Fonda Muhammad, Sharon Jemeyson and April Farley. The Commission is currently seeking more potential members. To request additional information, call the 24-hour comment line at 845-838-5094.

