

Janice O'Connell

From: Alan Milsted <alanmilsted@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:01 AM
To: Ronald Bergstrom; Patrick Princi
Cc: drkatepperly@gmail.com; Janice O'Connell; Suzanne McAuliffe; Deborah McCutcheon; James Killion; John Ohman; Christopher Kanaga; Thomas O'Hara; Edward Atwood; Brian O'Malley; Jack Yunits Jr
Subject: Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, budget FY19
Attachments: Scan letters.pdf

Dear Mssrs. Bergstrom and Princi,

I am writing to you as Chairs of the AoD Finance and Health & Human Services Committees, seeking the support of your committees in recommending to the Assembly, that the budget of the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission (BCHRC) (now included in the budget for the office of the County Commissioners) should be restored to the level recommended to the Board of County Commissioner by County Administrator, Jack Yunits, Jnr, on January 24, that is restoring the cut of \$8,569 determined by the Board of County Commissioners on January 31.

I'd like to remind you of the sequence of events regarding the budget of BCHRC, and in particular the issue of the Coordinator position over the last few years:

1. for many years, the Coordinator was an independent contractor, with a contract of 25 hours/week, accountable to the Director of Human Services and BCHRC;
2. under a previous County Administrator, it was determined that the functions and activities of the Coordinator were more akin to an employee, so the position was changed to a County employee, located within the office of the County Administrator. Further, it was determined that it should be a non-benefited position, so was limited to 19 hours/week, which continued through FY17;
3. in FY18, the County Commissioners reduced the BCHRC budget by \$8,500, which limited funds for the Coordinator position to 13.5 hours a week. The AoD Health and Human Services Committee voted to recommend a reversal of that cut, but it was never proposed to the full Assembly;
4. last summer, the Assembly passed Ordinance 17-10, which sought to rectify the matter, aiming to provide County Commissioners with funds to increase the hours available for a Coordinator to 19 per week. The County Commissioners rejected that recommendation;
5. as noted above, the County Administrator's budget proposals considered by the County Commissioners on January 24, restored funding for a 19 hour/week Coordinator position; the County Commissioners, by resolution on January 31, reduced the provision by \$8,569, leaving funding for only a 13.5 hour position.

That was the budget proposed to the Assembly on February 7, and remains the situation.

We very much hope that the Finance and Health & Human Services Committees will recommend a revised budget of the Assembly, which would restore the cut, by adding back \$8,569 to the BCHRC budget for FY19. If passed in the final budget vote, we anticipate that the County Commissioners will permit the County Administrator to recruit a Coordinator, a position which has been vacant since the resignation of Susan Quiñones at the beginning of the year.

As you can imagine, this year has been very challenging for the volunteer Human Rights Commissioners and Town Representatives, in carrying out our Assembly-determined mandate, with no immediate administrative and professional

assistance. (We have appreciated the limited support the County Administrator, the Executive Assistant and the Directors of Finance, Human Resources and Health have been able to offer.)

I attach copies of some letters of support we have received, demonstrating the value which the wider community places on the work of the Human Rights Commission.

For more graphic testimony, I refer you to a recent WCAI-NPR program, broadcast on February 14, "*The Point with Mindy Todd*", which featured students from Human Rights Academy students in three schools (Provincetown, Nauset RHS and Cape Cod Academy), along with Larry Brown, Human Rights Academy Adviser at Cape Cod Academy, and Rev. Dr. Kate Epperly, Vice Chair, BCHRC.

The link for this program is:

<http://capeandislands.org/post/local-human-rights-academy-takes-injustice>

I am copying this email to the Speaker of, and the Clerk to the Assembly; to the other members of the Finance and Health & Human Service Committees; to the County Administrator; and to Kate Epperly, Vice-chair of the Barnstable County Human Rights Committee, who will take the lead for BCHRC during my absence abroad from 2/24 through 3/26.

Sincerely,

Alan Milsted,
Chair, Barnstable County Human Rights Commission.

Address

P.O. Box 65
Falmouth, MA 02541

Phone

508.548.7999

Fax

508.548.7998

Email

info@capesamaritans.com

Website

www.CapeSamaritans.org

Crisis Lines

508.548.8900
800.893.9900

December 27, 2017

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing on behalf of the Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands in support of the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission. I have personally had the opportunity to participate in two Human Rights Academy sessions during my time as Executive Director of Samaritans. As a representative of our organization, I participate in many community education and outreach events. However, I have always felt that my past experiences with the Human Rights Academy have been the most worthwhile events I have participated in. Not only have they been an opportunity to educate students about suicide prevention and resources that are available to them but they afford the chance to play some part in the shaping of an incredible next generation of young people who will positively impact Barnstable County.

I strongly urge the Board of County Commissioners to continue to fund the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission as it considers the FY19 budget. It would seem that the proper "home" for the Commission falls within the framework of the county government – particularly since it plays a strong positive role in the development of future Barnstable County constituents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you need any further input.

Sincerely,



Stephanie G. Kelly
Executive Director



RIVERVIEW SCHOOL

February 2, 2018

Rick Lavoie
P.O. Box 210
Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Rick,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission. I am especially grateful for that a student from Riverview School was invited to participate in the Human Rights Academy.

Beginning in 2010, staff and students in our Transition Program began a partnership with the Human Rights Academy. Our students meet with High School students from around the Cape both at the beginning and at the end of the school year to discuss Human Rights Issues. Students from each school decide which cause they will focus on and, throughout the school year raise awareness of the issue within their individual school and have school-wide fund raisers. For many years, Riverview raised money to help towns in Africa develop wells so that inhabitants did not have to travel miles to get water. Recently, our students raised money for issues closer to-home, such as collecting money for various groups around the holidays as well as raising money for the Sandwich Food pantry.

I believe that the BCHRC's willingness to welcome our students into the Human Rights Academy program is a testimony to the organization's commitment to ensuring that ALL of Barnstable County's citizens have equal opportunities despite their needs or limitations. The encouragement our students receive from their peers throughout the Cape when they present their projects at the end of the school year has been truly inspiring.

We at Riverview value our partnership with BCHR and value the positive impact you have in our community.

Sincerely,

Stewart Miller
Head of School

Youth StreetReach

Youth StreetReach Mission Statement

“To integrate education, worship, and outreach in order to make youth more aware of injustice and to respect the dignity of all people, especially the lonely, lost, and disenfranchised.”

To Whom it May Concern

As the coordinator for the Youth StreetReach Program of the Cape Cod Council of Churches, I have had contact over the past few years with the work done by the Human Rights Commission on Cape Cod. As a presenter at the Human Rights Academy, I was able to share how Youth StreetReach involves youth in working with and for the homeless population on Cape Cod. The Human Rights Academy has youth from all over Cape Cod who come together to get ideas, share stories, and listen to speakers so that they can return to their communities and work for human rights. This is only one facet of the Human Rights Commission.

I wanted to show my support for the Human Rights Commission and to encourage financial support so that the Commission can continue its important work for human rights on Cape Cod.

Sincerely,

Marilyn

Marilyn Lariviere
Youth StreetReach Coordinator
mlariv@comcast.net
508-776-6059



NAUSET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. Box 1887, North Eastham, Massachusetts 02651-1887

Tel. (508) 255-1505

Fax. (508) 255-9701

Eduardo J. MacDonald, Principal

Keith Kenyon, Asst. Principal

Sean Fleming, Asst. Principal



To Whom it May Concern,

January 2018

My name is Isabel Pellegrini and I am a graduating senior at Nauset Regional High School. As I look beyond my senior year, I imagine the different possible ways I will affect change in the future that could lead to the progression of social justice. Above all, I feel excitement. Excitement for the future, for preparing for the higher levels of my education, and for following my passion. Throughout my journey at Nauset, my extensive involvement in student activism and social justice has led me to find myself fiercely passionate about human rights. I am deeply committed to the work of protecting and preserving fundamental human rights around the world and within my own community.

Every year since freshman year, I have invested myself in Nauset's chapter of the Human Rights Academy. This year, I am the president of the HRA. I have had the privilege and opportunity to work with the Barnstable Human Rights Commission over these past four years and in each year valuable collaborative connections have been made. Through the annual conference with all the other Human Rights Academies on Cape Cod we have built long-lasting and personal connections with students from other academies and with representatives from various activists communities. As passionate about social justice issues as I am, I found these conferences to be extremely valuable in building connections and relationships within the Cape community.

The relationships I and so many other student activists have been fortunate to have as a result of the Barnstable Human Rights Commission's HRA is only one example of the incredible role this organization plays in our lives as members of the Human Rights Academy. This commission is integral to the already thriving base of student activism surrounding social justice and human rights. Cutting the budget and limiting the growth and potential of such a meaningful organization here on Cape Cod is foolhardy and sad. I hope that hearing from a student whose life has been invariably affected by the vital work of the Barnstable Human Rights Commission and HRA speaks to the necessity of its existence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Isabel Pellegrini, President Nauset HRA



WE CAN Corporation ♦ 783 Route 28 ♦ Harwich Port MA 02646
Phone: 508-430-8111 ♦ Fax: 888-694-6199
info@wecancenter.org ♦ www.wecancenter.org

Barnstable County Human Rights Commission
P.O. Box 427
Barnstable, MA 02630
December 20, 2017

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Dear Barbara and the Board,

WE CAN supports the great work of the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission as an important entity in the County. As an organization that has a strong commitment to serving all of the Cape's women, we know first-hand that many are under served, or feeling that they are not always receiving services that they are entitled to. Language can be a major barrier as can discrimination.

We know that the BCHRC is a place that individuals can turn to when they need information or advocacy. We also know that the Commission is a visible sign that this County cares about all of its citizens and wants to ensure that they are treated with respect and dignity.

As an organization that does a significant amount of information and referral, and has 2 bilingual, bicultural staff--having the BCHRC in place is an important resource for us and so many in need.

We thank you for your important work and hope you will continue. In the current climate, we see this need even more than ever.

With support and gratitude,

Pam Kukla, President
Board of Directors

Andi Genser, Executive Director



Provincetown Schools



International Baccalaureate PK- Grade 8 World School

Dr. Beth Singer
Superintendent

12 Winslow Street
Provincetown, MA 02657
508-487-5020

Kim Pike, M.Ed.
District Principal

To whom it may concern,

January 2, 2018

For the last five years, since we closed our high school, I've woven a study of the United Nations and the Cape Cod Human Rights Academy (HRA) into our 7th Grade Community Projects Class curriculum. This is a service learning class in which we engage students in taking action on issues of local and global concern. As an International Baccalaureate School, Provincetown Schools learning community values and incorporates a global view into all that we do so students and staff see themselves as citizens of the planet, not just citizens of the United States. Before they become 7th Graders, students take part in Community Projects Class activities with a focus on caring the the earth (reduce, reuse and recycle) in the 5th Grade and a food security focus in the 6th Grade. The 7th Grade participation in HRA precedes the 8th Grade Community Project focus on identifying a personal project of interest for which students conduct self-directed service.

The group service projects that the HRA create provide a really wonderful lead-in to - and readiness for - the individual service projects students carry out in Grade 8. Our 7th Grade class students expect and look forward to participation in HRA each year. They take their service projects and presentation of these projects very seriously. Its a real-life opportunity for them to have a voice about issues that matter most to them. Additionally, the opportunity for them to meet with other young people and adults who share their concerns makes for a rare inter-generational opportunity to explore what it means to be a citizen of the United States and the World. What could be more important than this? In Provincetown, this means that we work closely with Pastor Brenda Haywood, Provincetown's Commissioner.

As an educator and resident on Cape Cod, I believe the presence of the Human Rights Commission and its mission to engage with communities and youth in those communities, is important, now more than ever. We need to help one another understand our place in the world and be sensitized to the privileges we experience, as well as the corresponding responsibilities we have as global citizens who have a moral obligation to consider the fate of our fellow World citizens. I truly hope the lessons we teach our children will be validated, and the needs of our future generations will be considered, while you are considering the fate of the Cape Cod Human Rights Commission.

Our children are watching us and they are very aware of efforts we take to value all life on this planet, and also those actions that diminish these possibilities. To those making decisions about the fate of the Cape Cod Human Rights Commission on Cape Cod, please act with vision and respect for what this World needs from all of us, including those of us out here on Cape Cod and the Islands. Thank you for considering these thoughts.

Peace to you.

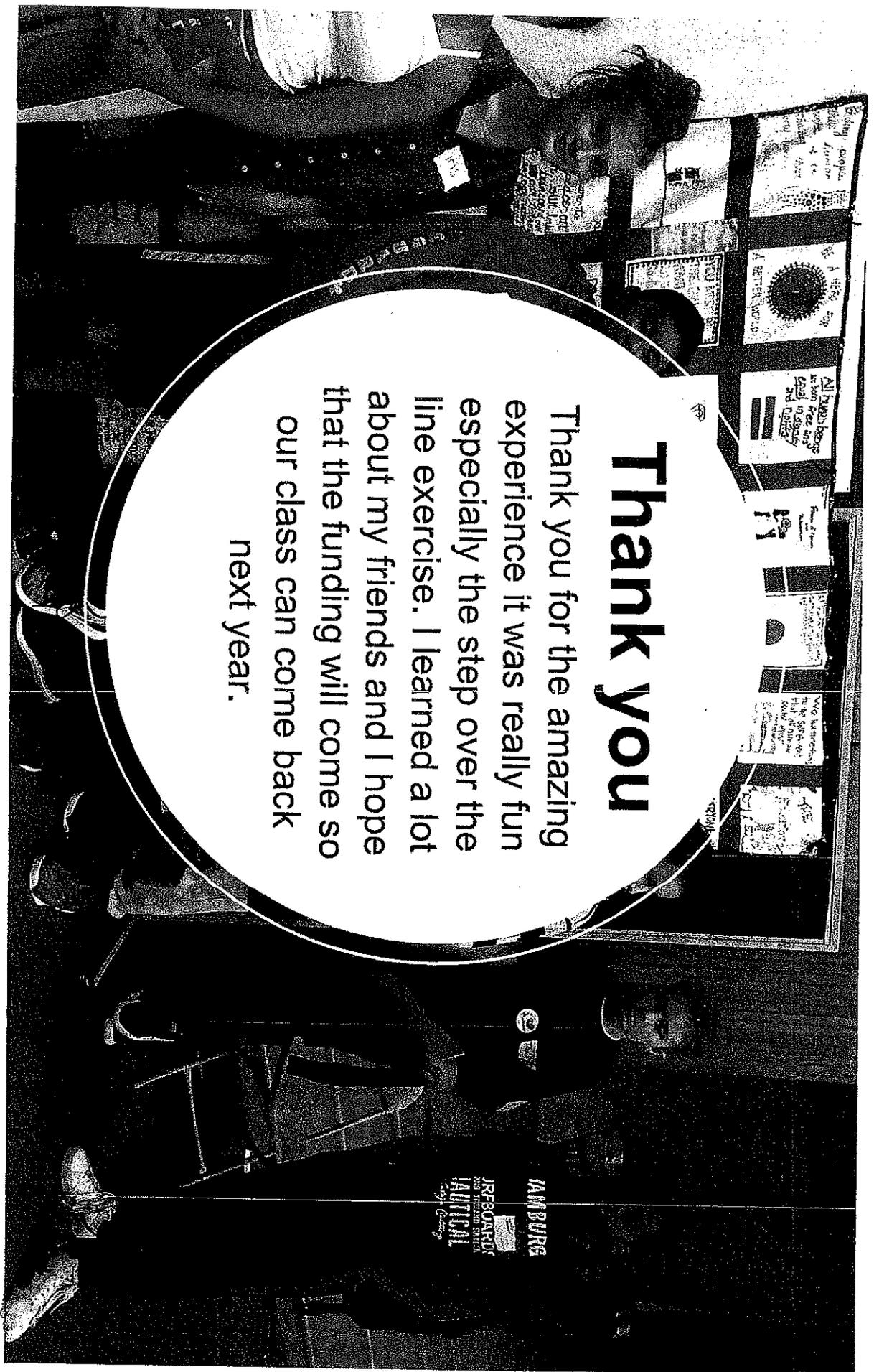
Nancy Flasher
Science and Service Learning Teacher
Provincetown Schools



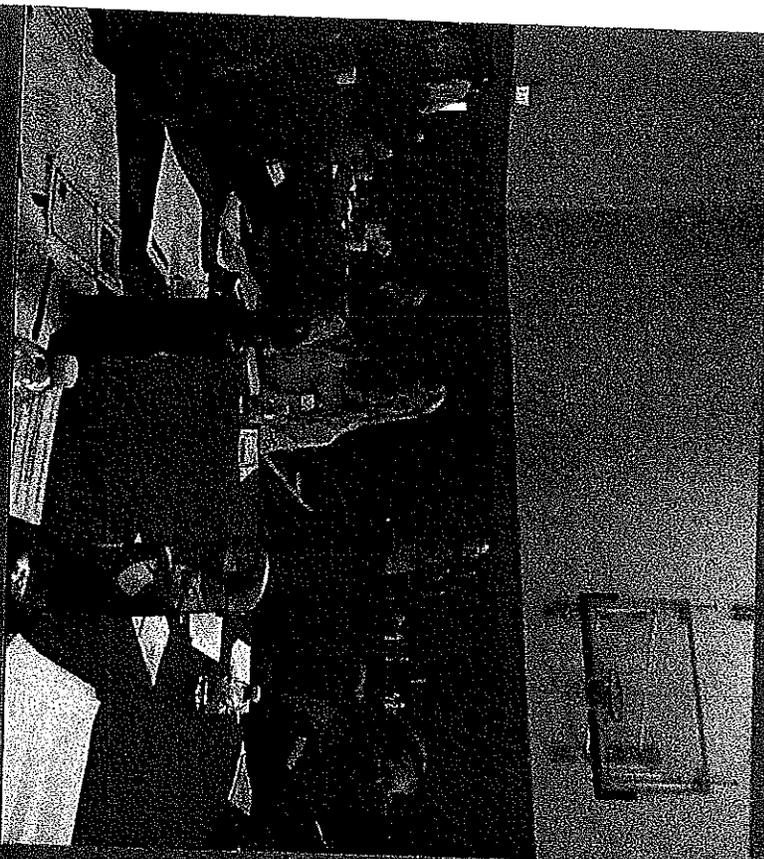
PROVINCETOWN 400
1620-2020

Thank you

Thank you for the amazing experience it was really fun especially the step over the line exercise. I learned a lot about my friends and I hope that the funding will come so our class can come back next year.



Thank You HIRA



Thank you for
teaching me what
Human Rights.
Thank you for the
service you have
done and the
experience I have
taken from it.