

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL: Fox, Ralston Aoki, Lee, Murphy, Smith, Nailon, Kirkeeng, Dlugose
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
 - A. Meeting Opener
 1. Review meeting ground rules
 2. Values discussion/icebreaker
3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
 - A. Consideration of minutes from meeting of May 29, 2025.
4. CHAIR REPORT
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. RPHC work and community engagement
 1. Pro-community resolution update
 2. Obergefell event planning update
 3. Robbins Landing community building event update
 4. National Night Out planning
 5. Next steps
 - B. Communications plan review and discussion
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion of proposed amendment to city charter adding a paragraph addressing equity.
 - B. Discussion of ordinance relating to camping on City property.
 - C. Park Renaming Policy
7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:
8. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Agenda topics input process
9. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Present: Julie Ralston Aoki, Molly Beahen, Patrick Nailon, Matt Murphy (nominee), Rita Fox, Joanna Brookes (City Liaison).

Excused: Courtney Kirkeeng, Kristyn Lee.

Absent: Dan Dlugose (nominee), Carlos Wallace Smith.

Also present: Brad Sutton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approval of agenda for 5/29/25.

Motion to approve the agenda for May 29, Nailon. **Seconded**, Beahen. **Motion carried.**

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from 4/24/2025.

Motion to approve minutes of 4/24, Beahen. **Seconded**, Fox. **Motion carried.**

CHAIR REPORT

Ralston Aoki shared various resources that she has found to be helpful and informative. Notably, the Code Switch podcast has recent episode about the current federal administration's DEI impacts. The 5-4 Podcast about Supreme Court cases has a recent episode that is relevant to the Obergefell event. There is a recurring theme of civil rights advances and then backlash.

Ralston Aoki will distribute the slide deck that Molly and Courtney used in presentation to Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you to Molly Beahen for her service to the HRC over several years. Today is her last meeting.

Beahen expressed her appreciation for the work of the HRC, how creatively we are working now, and her hope for what is happening locally.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of HRC presentation to City Council

Discussion of the draft Pro-Community resolution at the City Council work session on May 13th. A recent Sun Post article was written about it. City staff will put the resolution into the official format for consideration by Council at a June meeting. Also discussed person camping under water tower- does the City need an ordinance? Kirkeeng has followed up and sent some additional info. The HRC could provide support and connect folks with other organizations that could help the City's work.

Sutton: Concerned that the resolution is overly long and that people won't read it. Sees the purpose, is concerned about possible adverse reaction and wants to see it land well. Agrees it's the right thing to do.

Ralston Aoki: Reminder that the resolution will also have positive feedback.

- B. Pro-Community Resolution

Next steps: Ralston Aoki will bring the final draft to Tim. The subcommittee will develop talking points.

Motion to authorize subcommittee to create talking points, Fox. **Seconded**, Nailon. **Motion carried.**

- C. Obergefell Educational Event

The subcommittee met on May 3rd. City Hall has been finalized as the venue for the event. Still working on the order of presentation. OutFront MN will be talking about their post-inauguration guide. Karen Thompson and Patty Bressler will discuss their personal histories. There is a possibility of a panel discussion. Fox is working on publicity for June Pride events. The next planning meeting will be held on June 21st.

D. Developing a Communications Plan for Human Rights-Related Information and HRC Activities

City will feature the Obergefell event in communications in June, Rita is working on a draft. The idea is for the HRC to have a steady presence in the Birdtown Brief.

Motion to authorize the subcommittee to prepare an article for the Birdtown Brief, Beahen. **Seconded**, Ralston Aoki. **Motion carried.**

E. RPHC Work and Community Engagement

A planned salsa event at Robbins Landing was postponed because of a family emergency. A community dinner is planned with residents to help build a culture of community within the building. Residents helped one another through the fire in other ways. They will be able to nominate other residents as heroes to be recognized at the dinner. HRC is working with the JCPP on food, certificates, etc. A speaker from Homeline will speak to the group about tenants' rights for people with disabilities and the potential creation of a residents' council. An email on the topic of Beloved Community will be sent to commissioners. Healthcare for all is a focus of this group. There is advocacy for this happening at the state level.

Kirkeeng and Beahen presented at the Chamber of Commerce. The presentation addressed the topic of DEI: why it's been a buzzword, what it is, and how it's beneficial from a business standpoint.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Applications for new HRC members

Sutton said as he read through the applications of recent commissioner nominees, he was struck by the amount of writing that was needed to complete the application, and noted that this is not part of the process for other City commissions.

Ralston Aoki stated that the supplemental questions began because in the past, some members commissioners did not attend regularly after they were appointed. The idea was to ensure that applicants were aware of the commitment involved. Agreed to review the questions to see if they could use revisions.

The citywide commission application also may benefit from review. Brookes: Will look into this to see whether it can be improved.

B. Presentation of Robbinsdale DEI Committee Charter and Annual Plan

Brookes presented the charter and annual plans for the City's DEI committee.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Fox: Recently traveled to Scotland. Was heartened to see that the Scottish people do not equate individual Americans with their government. The BBC had a feature with a 5-year reflection on the Floyd murder and its worldwide impact.

Beahen: Promised to keep in touch.

Ralston Aoki: No further updates.

Nailon: No updates.

Murphy: There was a presidential action on April 28 that purports to aim to pursue criminals and protect innocent civilians. The upshot is the militarization of state and local law enforcement. Things in the order specifically mention paying for pro bono services for officers unjustly taken to court for their actions. Includes the review and modification of consent decrees, the utilization of military and security assets to prevent crime, and holding state and local officials accountable for "discrimination" under DEI policies. The Minneapolis

consent decree that came out of the Floyd event was rescinded. Could we have a dialogue of understanding with the Robbinsdale police dept, about what the action will look like in real life?

Ralston Aoki: Suggested putting a plan together and involving Philip Gray. John Elder could come to a meeting for the RPD.

Move that commission takes up investigation into executive order of April 28, 2025 and develops a plan to respond, Nailon. **Second**, Ralston Aoki. **Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned 9:20 PM.

The United States Supreme Court decision of [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) marked its tenth anniversary on June 26th this year. In *Obergefell*, the Court held that states could not prohibit same-sex marriages and must treat them the same as opposite-sex marriages. At the time, 36 states, including Minnesota, already recognized the right of same-sex couples to marry. *Obergefell* ensured that this right became upheld across the US. In doing so, the Court recognized that the right to marry is a fundamental human right protected by the 14th Amendment.

The road to *Obergefell* traveled many peaks and valleys, including in Robbinsdale. In 2010, Robbinsdale residents Douglas Benson and Duane Gajewski joined two other couples in a lawsuit to overturn Minnesota's 1997 Defense of Marriage Act. In 2012, the Robbinsdale City Council, at the urging of the Human Rights Commission, established a domestic partnership registry for both same-sex and opposite-sex couples, one of only a handful of Minnesota cities to do so. Although the registry provided limited practical protections for couples, it demonstrated Robbinsdale's commitment to protect the human rights of all residents.

Ten years after *Obergefell*,  same-sex marriage remains the law of the land. Yet, as the ink was drying on this landmark decision, the backlash began. In 2025, at least nine states have introduced measures urging the Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell*. One Supreme Court Justice has stated a desire to reconsider it. The Court already has begun chipping away at *Obergefell*'s constitutional protections; for example, its 2024 decision in [State v. Muñoz](#) suggests that marriages between U.S. citizens and non-citizens have lesser protections. This backlash is not limited to the right to marry. The American Civil Liberties Union is [tracking](#) nearly 600 anti LGBTQ+ state bills filed just in 2025. The 19th [reports](#) that most of these bills target transgender people.

To discuss the *Obergefell* decision – and its intersection with all human rights – the City of Robbinsdale is holding a community event at City Hall on July 26th at 1 pm entitled “Obergefell and YOU, Know the law, Hold the line.” The Robbinsdale Human Rights Commission is joined by collaborators in the Golden Valley DEI Commission, the Minnetonka DEI Commission, and the New Hope Human Rights Commission in sponsoring the event. This is a public event and everyone is invited.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT
TO ROBBINSDALE CITY COMMISSION

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

EMAIL: _____

RESIDENT OF ROBBINSDALE SINCE (Year) _____ WARD: _____

OCCUPATION: _____ EMPLOYER: _____

COMMISSION YOU ARE SEEKING: _____

For the Senior Commission, you must be over 55 years old. If seeking a position on the Senior Commission, you must initial here to indicate that you meet that qualification: _____

EDUCATION: (Please indicate highest grade completed or highest degree and major course of study.)

CIVIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES: (Please list past and present civic activities and organizational memberships, particularly those which may be relevant to the appointment you are seeking.)

COMMENTS: (Please briefly describe other qualifications, experiences and other information which you would like to have considered or which you believe are particularly relevant to the appointment you are seeking. Use additional pages if necessary.)

Supplemental Questions for those applying for Human Rights Commissioner Appointments
Use additional sheets to respond to these questions.

- 1) Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer in opinion helped your workplace or classroom.
- 2) In your experience what is the key to developing a productive team?
- 3) What is your ability and willingness to coordinate a special topic/ one or more events related to human rights?
- 4) What projects or activities would you propose for the HRC in the next 12 months?
- 5) What do you think are most important issues in Robbinsdale and why?
- 6) Give an example of a time you have witnessed or been part of discrimination. Summarize your feelings, thoughts, or actions.
- 7) How in your life have you been advocating for Human Rights?
- 8) What bothers you the most? What keeps you up at night? What drives you?
- 9) What drove you to apply for the Commission? What can you do to move the needle?
- 10) Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task to address or support Human Rights.

Supplemental Questions for those applying for Human Rights Commissioner Appointments

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1) Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer in opinion helped your workplace or classroom.

As a program analyst at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, I manage multiple contracts simultaneously, coordinating efforts between vendors, internal customers, and subject matter experts. Recently, my team and I secured approval for a medical device contract that will save the VA several hundred thousand dollars annually. Beyond my leadership role, I also built a strong relationship with the vendor, which allowed me to suggest improvements to their reporting process—conversations that proved beneficial for everyone involved.

2) In your experience what is the key to developing a productive team?

From my experience, effective communication is essential for building a high-performing team, with the team leader's emotional intelligence playing a critical role. The leader must be able to "read the room" from the outset of the team's formation. Their first priority is to create a safe and respectful environment that fosters open communication.

In a successful team, members naturally gravitate toward roles that align with their strengths. This process is supported by open dialogue, experimentation, and the freedom to make mistakes without fear of punishment. The leader's emotional intelligence is key to guiding this dynamic and ensuring the team thrives.

3) What is your ability and willingness to coordinate a special topic/ one or more events related to human rights?

Although event coordination is not something I have experience in, my professional role involves market research and analysis of market trends, as well as the selection of vendors and contractors. I am certainly willing to step up and learn.

4) What projects or activities would you propose for the HRC in the next 12 months?

My background and passion lie in accessible communication and digital accessibility. After reviewing the commission's agendas and minutes, I noticed these areas have not been addressed. I believe access to information should not be limited to those who are sighted, able to speak, or speak English at home.

I also see art as a powerful tool for spreading a message. I would love to explore ways to incorporate art into the HRC's outreach efforts.

5) What do you think are most important issues in Robbinsdale and why?

Blue Line extension: While I am dependent of public transportation, I understand the concern regarding the Blue Line extension. Citizens of Robbinsdale have a very strong sense of the uniqueness of their town. The light rail extension will undoubtedly change the character of the parts of Robbinsdale that it touches.

School District budget shortfall: The shortfall came as a shock. There is a lot of anger around the mismanagement and accounting. In the current political climate, where funding for school programs is being canceled, these feelings are rising again.

Public safety: People here are concerned that crime, especially violent crime is increasing in Robbinsdale. Several incidents in the past year have raised the levels of fear and anger. Communities on apps such as Next Door are often filled with warnings about package thieves or the sound of police helicopters overhead.

6) Give an example of a time you have witnessed or been part of discrimination. Summarize your feelings, thoughts, or actions.

As a middle-class white male, I am not often on the receiving side of racial discrimination. However, as a neurodivergent individual with an unseen disability, I am often in situations in which I am unknowingly dis-abled. When the bartender hands me my glass, he doesn't know that I can't tell how far away it is. When I walk through the mall, no one knows that I can't hear because my head is reacting to the loud background music. People take it for granted that I can drive myself to an appointment.

These things are much different than the ingrown social biases we face. Last year, while riding the bus down Broadway, a black man began to verbally assault the white driver for checking more black's passes than white's. As the situation escalated, and I noted that I was the only other white male on the bus, I felt very uncomfortable.

Eventually, a black woman stepped between the man and the driver. It was obvious that she was highly educated and that she was a trained activist. She kept her attention on the driver, continuing the conversation as a debate rather than an assault.

After seeing this, I found I was very curious. I WANTED to listen to what she had to say. I wanted a chance to talk with her one-on-one and ask questions. I never got that chance, but this incident stands out in my mind.

7) How in your life have you been advocating for Human Rights?

I feel my life experiences have been leading me to advocating. Throughout my young life and career, I can that I was scared to stand up and be an advocate. As I grew older, began to educate myself and let myself become vulnerable enough to look deeper into human rights issues.

I worked for many years at DHS. I started soon after 9/11. It was a noble mission and we accomplished things that no other government agency had ever done. Then my nurse colleagues were sent to the border to care for children who had crossed alone or were separated from their families. I still see the images they brought back, and the weariness that never really left them.

Later, after we had a daughter, I fought the Trump ballot on social media with the message that no one should vote for a president who would hurt their daughter. In one project, we created protest art to be displayed on the White House lawn. That display is now a part of the Trump Presidential Library.

After leaving DHS, I became interested in disability and accessibility. I completed industry certification in Section 508 compliance testing. I was lucky enough to secure an internship with a Microsoft executive focused on DEI and Inclusion. Wrote op/ed pieces on social media and offered testing and editing services for individuals needing to make their documents compliant with Section 508.

Most recently, I began a letter-writing campaign to my elected officials urging them to protect the veterans depending on services provided at VA hospitals, and in particular, the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Veterans are heroes and deserve better.

In addition, I created a campaign to increase conversation about what a civil servant really is and what sort of jobs they actually do. Called 'Civil Servant Superheroes', I create a fictional superhero based on an actual job position that is open in the federal government, and share the character's back story, heroic image, and a link to the job announcement.

8) What bothers you the most? What keeps you up at night? What drives you?

Without hesitation, I find it deeply concerning that we have a president with a criminal record and a history of sexual misconduct making decisions that will shape the world my daughter will inherit.

9) What drove you to apply for the Commission? What can you do to move the needle?

I do not believe the current president prioritizes the best interests of our country or its people. I have long been interested in the Robbinsdale Human Rights Commission, even before becoming a resident. However, I hesitated to apply due to my perceived lack of experience.

Now, I feel compelled to step up, regardless of my experience, because meaningful change will not happen on its own.

I believe the path forward lies within our local communities. Strengthening our communities is essential, and I can no longer wait for others to take the lead.

While I may not have an immediate solution for how to 'move the needle,' I am eager to learn and contribute to the positive change our community needs.

10) Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task to address or support Human Rights.

I am not yet an organizer, but as a project manager, I encounter similar challenges. My strengths lie in envisioning possibilities, analyzing information, identifying alternatives, and mitigating risks.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT
TO ROBBINSDALE CITY COMMISSION

NAME: Daniel Leo Dlugose ADDRESS: 4048 Yates Ave N, Robbinsdale
PHONE: (Home) ^{cell} 651-529-2780 (Work) Use if 651rr goes to voicemail
(720) 467-2893
EMAIL: lightningcub@yahoo.com
RESIDENT OF ROBBINSDALE SINCE (Year) 2023 WARD: 1
OCCUPATION: Nurse (ret.) EMPLOYER: N/A
COMMISSION YOU ARE SEEKING: Human Rights Commission

For the Senior Commission, you must be over 55 years old. If seeking a position on the Senior Commission, you must initial here to indicate that you meet that qualification: _____

EDUCATION: (Please indicate highest grade completed or highest degree and major course of study.)

Highest: 1 year Catholic University in Philosophy Wash. DC 1979
BA Psychology, SUNY Albany 1997, BS Arcadia Univ., Computer Sci 12/1984
AAS Nursing Alamogordo Comm. College spring 1995 North Carolina
Certificate Biotechnology, Boston Univ. School of Medicine, Fall 2003
Foundation Certificate in Teachy ESL, London Teacher Training College, Grade A distinction 2018

CIVIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES: (Please list past and present civic activities and organizational memberships, particularly those which may be relevant to the appointment you are seeking.)

One year volunteer work - ESL and health education 2013-14 } more details
One year volunteer work - ESL and health education 2018-19 } on other pages
current volunteer Red Cross at blood drives on Minnesota Veterans Home
current volunteer First Unitarian Universalist Church - getting out vote, Chorus
pending volunteer Karen Organization of Minnesota

COMMENTS: (Please briefly describe other qualifications, experiences and other information which you would like to have considered or which you believe are particularly relevant to the appointment you are seeking. Use additional pages if necessary.)

Post BA Psychology experience: extra training 2 semesters CG Jung Institute of Colorado
Wellbeing Economy Forum June 11-12 Iceland, economy, civil rights,
healthcare, governance for all people, etc.
Training in International Business and Diplomacy Protocol by US IDHR
(US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights) Sept 11-13-24 Washington DC

Please return to City Clerk's Office - 4100 Lakeview Avenue North, Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422

Blog "Asia Health Travels" <https://Dlugose.wordpress.com>
Phone: 763-537-4534 Fax: 763-531-1291

October 2016

Supplemental Questions for those applying for Human Rights Commissioner Appointments
Use additional sheets to respond to these questions.

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Human Rights Commission Volunteer

Education Chronologic

Honors Scientific High School Diploma NY State Board of Regents, 1967

Hunter College of City of NY Philosophy 1974-75 (2 semesters)

BA Psychology State Univ. of NY at Albany,

BS Computer Science Arcadia University, Glenside MD 1984

AAS Nursing Alamance Community College, Graham NC 1995

Certificate Biotechnology Boston U. School of Medicine, 2003

I speak and understand basic French, and very basic words and phrases in German and Spanish.

Civic and other activities

High School (Niagara Falls NY) Musician and fund raiser for Salvation Army

Volunteer Meditation Instructor Shambhala International 1993-present

1988-2024. Senior Coordinator for event at Boston Shambhala Center year Nov 2000-spring 2001 about 60 volunteers in several committees to plan housing, teaching events, fund-raising participation in Boston marathon.

2003 (approx.) training as a Mental Health First Aid

Responder by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

Several Red Cross courses including attending a neighborhood ambulance run.

2004-2007 various services as a Registered Nurse serving in Boston Medical Reserve Corps – attending training, practice emergencies, giving vaccinations

2013-14 One year abroad doing volunteer work in developing countries in Asia and South Pacific region primarily in health care teaching and English as a second language for Project Hope and other NGO's in Marshall Islands, Kiribas, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, India, Nepal (including Himalayan Medical Trek) , Thailand (ESL) at high school Kaw Tha Blay Learning Ctr for a semester.

2010-2012 Three years of teaching ESL in Aurora, CO for Project Worthmore, with a Volunteer of the Year award.

2015-2023 Volunteer at Denver Museum of Nature and Science sequentially in Expedition Health. Paleontology Lab and Anthropology Lab (Native artifacts)

2018-19 Year abroad with wife, miscellaneous work in Vietnam (ESL), Malaysia (hostel staff), Myanmar (ESL), India (health care advising in a school), Nepal (office support for Women's Foundation of Nepal), Northern Norway a week of living on a farm while preparing the village church for a family religious celebration. Northern Sweden making repairs on a

cabin on a rural property and helping with various family tasks.

Six weeks in Poland Jan – Feb 2024 Volunteer with Polish NGO Ocalenie supervising children at two border crossings from Ukraine while parents made plans to settle in new locations.

2023 Occasional volunteer at Museum of Boulder (Exhibits: Native American, children, science, history)

For all in-between years 2008-2023 I volunteered as a meditation instructor for Boulder Shambhala Center in Boulder, France and a few other locations.

Ongoing activities and donations:

I am currently making recurring donations to Himalayan Health Care, various organizations supporting Ukraine.

I pay the teachers at a school in Thailand their salaries monthly, with additional money going to the Headmaster who defends Karen people in Burma by providing food, first-aid supplies, and trips for him to teach people about Human slavery, and addiction caused by the Burmese Army (Tatmadaw).

Minnesota volunteer work

American Red Cross –receptionist for blood draws at 3 occasions, ongoing ARC volunteer at the Minnesota Veterans home at Fort Snelling about 1-2 times/week.

Volunteer at First Unitarian-Universalist Church, serving in Chorus, Library Committee, and occasionally leading the Meditation Group.

Supplemental Questions:

1) Share experience in which my willingness to lead In analysis helped my classes in Greek Philosophy at Hunter College, I was considered the leader in analysis of various topics. As Dr. Alfred DiLascia said “his comments on a variety of philosophical problems, often difficult, that were highly commendable, textually precise, interpretively perceptive and orally well delivered” [see letter by Dr. Alfred DiLascia]

2) Keys to developing a good team. Analyze my own strengths and weaknesses for the task proposed to choose assistants that have the strengths that I don't. Determine if any outside groups in the same organization need to be consulted. Consult my manager about people likely to be needed on the team. Start initial meetings with introductions of new members. Allow some time before or after meetings to socialize to learn how to better listen to and talk to various

individuals. Agree on subjects for next meeting. Make needed communications between meeting by phone or email as needed. Don't assume from my impressions that someone has a weakness or strength without consulting someone else who knows that person.

3) Ability and willingness to coordinate a special topic/ one or more events related to human rights: Treatment of refugees. They often need help with learning English language, customs and normal practices. I have experience both through courses (French, German, ESL) and in-person interaction in America, Asia and Europe. I have friends in Vietnam, Nepal and Poland. I am familiar with the curriculum to become an American citizen. I grew up in a mixed African-American, White and Hispanic neighborhood.

3) Special topics: immigration, mental illness

4) most important issues Robbinsdale: transit, housing costs

5) Time I was discriminated against: poor person not fitting into school. Feelings: shame, fear

6) Witnessing discrimination: Supervisor talking about another employee in a negative way related to ethnic group – I told him I did not feel I should be listening to this.

7) How have I been advocacy re: Human Rights.

Participating in marches on peace rights: Albany NY 1973,

Women's rights Washington DC about 1980 as a early member of NOW, and a few others. I occasionally call a government representative including my Minnesota representative in Congress. I have often messaged the Office of the President. Volunteer work in two elections: Pennsylvania, Minnesota. I worked for Boulder County Colorado as a part time employee in the Fall 2015 elections and was trained in handwriting analysis.

8) What bothers you most: climate change, war, discrimination in general, lack of preventative healthcare.

9) What drove you to apply: I want to serve in an on-going meaningful way in a field where I have some expertise and experience.

10) Example of leadership in diverse group:

When working as the Manager of the Occupational Health Clinic at a General Motors warehouse In Massachusetts, I listened patiently to employees who were injured by on-site work at the warehouse. I believed the employee and personally checked out the place and equipment that was involved to understand the mechanism of the injury. Each week my supervisor – a Physiatrist MD would visit me to advise me approve measures I had taken The manager of the warehouse threatened to call me before the executive committee to decide whether to fire me, so knowing the GM

Healthcare leadership, I called them and explained the situation and I was reassured that they would protect me. After that I began attending some meetings of the Management / Union Safety Committee to hear both sides and understand the underlying issues. Within the next year I achieved the faith of the Union and Warehouse leadership, though the Manager stopped talking to me.

Comments

If chosen I will be one of the members of the Committee that regularly talks to people with ethnic diversity. I am related to several African Americans who I love, and often ride on buses and have a discussion with a person or persons of ethnic diversity. Waiting at bus stops or stopping there to ask for directions gives me an opportunity to connect. I once got a cheer from a group of African Americans when I sprinted out to catch the bus that I had just missed. Since I had missed it they promised me to get me to my destination.

While working for Project Worthmore, there were also group trips to visit places such as museums, the Denver Botanical Gardens (in varying seasons). I remember standing in awe and grief at pictures of mistreated slaves in a museum with African American immigrants and other immigrants from Nepal, Thailand and Myanmar.

Hunter College

OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK | 695 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 | DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Telephone
360-2427

New York
November 6, 1976

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Dlugose is a very unusual person: both sensitive and reflective, he is endowed with an admirable talent for discerning central issues in any given philosophical problem. He first came to my attention in a course I taught at Hunter College last semester, "Plato and pre-Socratic philosophy", and soon exhibited a very penetrating mind as he came to class thoroughly prepared, in itself no virtue yet indispensable for any fruitful class discussion. And so it was not just his diligence that I found admirable but also -and indeed chiefly- his ~~excellent~~ comments on a variety of philosophical problems, often difficult, that were highly commendable: textually precise, interpretatively perceptive and orally well delivered. Indeed, I myself always enjoyed Mr. Dlugose's contributions, and would often call upon him to enhance and deepen the class discussion.

Last Spring Mr. Dlugose invited me to dinner in his home and just last week came to visit me from Washington, D.C., and all my earlier impressions were promptly confirmed. After knowing him both formally in the class-room and informally outside, I am wholly convinced Mr. Dlugose will honor any graduate school he chooses to attend, and eventually make an excellent teacher: he is so deeply sensitive to philosophical issues which he not only speculates about but actually and significantly lives, that he would immediately inspire if not inflame students with the love of philosophy he himself has. I personally hope you can help him with his ~~studies~~ studies -both undergraduate and graduate- for he is, in my long teaching experience (27 years), a first-rate student and hence would make a superior candidate for a career as a college professor of philosophy, in the light of both his temperament and talent.

Along with all that I have said, Mr. Dlugose is a genuinely gentle and - I do not hesitate to use the much abused word - lovable person, not only in my opinion but in that of his fellow students who invariably spoke of him with affection and admiration. Mr. Dlugose deserves your full support for I am fully confident that it will eventually -in more tough-minded words- "pay-off", in more senses than one. In conclusion then, I wish Mr. Dlugose the very best in his studies -undergraduate and graduate- as well as in his future career as a philosopher.

Respectfully yours,

Alfred DiLascia

Alfred DiLascia
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy