

Human Rights City Presentation

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Professor Robert Darst's Human Rights Seminar, Fall 2017

The concept of a "Human Rights City" addresses how well human rights standards are met in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Making a city a "Human Rights City" simply assures citizens that their basic human rights are being considered and actively protected.

Professor Darst's class collaborated with a UMass Dartmouth Law School course advocating for New Bedford and Fall River to become "Human Rights Cities". Each student in the course chose a different subject to focus on, researching human rights performance in New Bedford and presenting recommendations on how more actively protect these rights.

1. Food (Abdul Abdullahi)

- a. "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food..."
- b. New Bedford has the highest rate of obesity in Massachusetts
- c. *Recommendations*
 - i. Educate the population on healthy eating
 1. Cooking classes, community gardens, local markets
 - ii. Reduce incentive for more fast-food chains to move to the city
 - iii. Partner with local grocery stores

2. Arrests (Celina Andrade)

- a. "equality before the law" *Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*
- b. *Recommendations*
 - i. Collect more consistent data, accounting for race, age, location, etc.
 - ii. Adapt/change police culture
 - iii. Involve the community (neighborhood watch groups)

3. Wage Gap (Greg Estabrooks)

- a. A right to gain a living from work you freely accept, to fair wages, to equal pay for equal work, and for equal opportunity for promotion
- b. Women, on average, earn less than men
 - i. The gap increases for women of color
- c. *Recommendations*
 - i. Cities for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
 - ii. "Equal Pay Day"
 - iii. Consider paid maternity leave
 - iv. Encourage women to enter male-dominated STEM fields

4. Opioid Crisis (Jared Doran)

- a. Right to the "highest attainable standard of health"
- b. "The War on Drugs" itself has violated international human rights standards
- c. There have been prevention programs ("Youth Opioid Prevention Grant Program" in New Bedford)
- d. *Recommendations*
 - i. Leadership to convene local leaders; more education and prevention targeted at youth; expansion of treatment; better use of law enforcement

10. Happiness (Lisbeth Valdez)

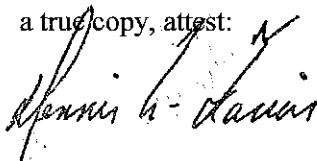
- a.** The right to live adequately for your health and well-being
- b.** Six factors: GDP, Health, Freedom, Generosity, Social Support & Trustworthy Governance
- c.** *Recommendations*
 - i.** People are happier located by the water, and with access to nature, "green spaces", and fresh fruits and vegetables
 - ii.** Measuring happiness helps in policy-making decisions

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.

IN CITY COUNCIL, April 12, 2018

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

a true copy, attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis W. Farias", written over a faint circular stamp.

City Clerk