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MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

GINA K. KWON
Secretary

MEETING MINUTES
HATE CRIME TASK FORCE

Date: May 4, 2026
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Microsoft Teams: Join the meeting now **Meeting ID**: 272280252765 **Passcode:** Lbpwfa
Dial in by phone +1 857-327-9245,,813708751# **Phone conference ID:** 813 708 751#

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm.

	Membership	Present	Absent	Meeting Minutes
1	**Co-Chair** Secretary Gina Kwon		X	
2	**Co-Chair** Josh Kraft	X		X
3	Ariella Hellman	X		X
4	Ana Javier	X		X
5	Liam Lowney	X		Abstain
6	Margaret Rwaramba	X		X
7	Chief Kelly Nee	X		X
8	Officer Israel "Izzy" Marrero	X		X
9	Kevin Baker	X		Abstain
10	Timothy Moran	X		X
11	Genevieve Nadeau	X		Abstain
12	Emily Todisco	X		X
13	Amanda Robbins	X		Abstain
14	Representative Brandy Fluker Reid	X		X
15	Senator Rebecca Rausch	X		X
16	Giselle Byrd		X	
17	Vacant Student Seat			
18	Vacant Teacher Seat			
19	Chief Jody Kasper	X		Abstain
20	Bishop Talbert Swan II	X		X

21	Sheriff Frank Cousins		X	
22	Representative Steven George Xiarhos	X		Abstain
23	Jennifer Cotter	X		X
24	Robert Trestan	X		X
25	Dara Kaufman	X		Abstain
26	Dr. Nawal Nour	X		Abstain
27	DA Anthony Gulluni	X		X

2. Welcome

Co-Chair Josh Kraft welcomed members and noted that Secretary Gina Kwon was unable to attend. Co-Chair Josh Kraft chaired the meeting. Attendance was taken, and a quorum was established.

3. Review and Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2026

Bishop Talbert Swan moved to approve the draft meeting minutes, which Officer Israel "Izzy" Marrero seconded. The meeting minutes were approved.

4. Membership Updates

- Liam Lowney, Executive Director, Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
- Kevin Baker, Security Investigations, Encore Boston
- Amanda Robbins, Campus Safety Advisor, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- Representative Steven George Xiarhos, designee of Representative Bradley H. Jones, Jr who currently is the House Minority Leader.

Members provided brief introductions outlining their professional backgrounds and interest in serving on the Task Force. Discussion emphasized the importance of collaboration among state agencies, law enforcement, higher education, advocacy organizations, and community partners.

5. EOPSS Presentation on the Cross-Tracking System

Kerry Collins, Undersecretary for Forensic Science and Technology, EOPSS, provided an overview of the Cross-Tracking System and answered questions from Task Force members. The presentation is included below.



Members discussed how hate crime information is tracked and shared. Undersecretary Collins explained that the system only includes Massachusetts state data and does not have federal data. If the Task Force requests to see the towns where incidents happened, that information can be shared.

6. Update from the Representatives of the Hate Crimes Task Force Working Group

Robert Trestan and Kelly Nee met with Chair Rodriguez from the Senate Committee on Ways & Means regarding the bill SB1056 – An Act to amend the definition of hate crime petitioned by Senator Cynthia Creem. The in-person meeting was held on April 1, 2026, and it went well. Overall, the discussion emphasized the importance of advocating on behalf of the Task Force and continuing legislative engagement and communication with committee leadership.

EOPSS reached out to the House Committee on Ways & Means to set up an introductory meeting but didn't hear back. Robert Trestan also tried reaching out without success. Co-Chair Josh Kraft suggested the House representatives help us get that conversation started. The representatives acknowledged that there are many bills each cycle and that they will help with legislative outreach to promote our advocacy efforts.

7. Update on Hate Crime Legislative Bills
William Ramsdell updated the Task Force on hate crime legislative bills.

Bills Advocated for (House Ways & Means)
HB4636 - An Act to advance hate-crime protections for victims who are targeted due to their gender – No Update
HB4667 - An Act building resilience and increasing access to mental health services - No Update
Bills Advocated for (Senate Ways & Means)
SB1056 - An Act to amend the definition of hate crime – No Update
Outstanding Bills:
SB1246 - An Act to add sex and gender as protected classes for crime prosecutions – Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means on February 5, 2026.
Bills Sent to Study:
HB1995 - An Act regularizing sentencing for hate crimes – Sent to Study on March 26, 2026.
HB1589 - An Act to amend the definition of hate crime – Sent to Study on March 26, 2026.
SB1388 - An Act building resilience and increasing access to mental health services - Sent to Study on January 29, 2026.

8. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting
Members discussed the possibility of scheduling a future presentation from the Massachusetts State Police Hate Crime Unit and receiving an update.

9. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 pm.