

Human Relations Commission Planning Retreat Agenda

Monday, January 13th, 2025
5:30 P.M.

Retreat Objectives:

1. Develop a clear 2025 plan of action for the Human Relations Commission.
2. Plan effective community events for engagement.
3. Brainstorm innovative engagement activities to strengthen relationships with the community.

A. **Welcome** (5 mins)

B. **Teambuilding Activity Icebreaker** (15 mins) - Amanda Cisneros

C. **Community Events Planning** (5 mins) - Monique Glaude ´

D. **Innovative Engagement Activities** (35 mins) -
Monique Glaude ´ & Zaynah Afada

E. **Bridging Gaps Exercise** (45 mins) – CE/DEI Team

F. **Q & A/Open Discussion** (10 mins) - Monique Glaude ´ & Zaynah Afada

G. **Closing & Next Steps** - Monique Glaude ´

H. **Meeting Adjournment**



CITY OF TOPEKA

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

RETREAT MINUTES

DRAFT

Date: January 13, 2025
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: City Hall 1st Floor Conference Room and Zoom

Call to Order. Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Roll Call.

Present: Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols; Vice Chair Roberts; Commissioner Luc Bensimon, Commissioner Zachary Surratt, Commissioner Jaron Balderes,

Absent: Commissioner Michaela Kerls, Commissioner Alexis Simmons

Visitors: N/A

Staff: Director of Community Engagement & Interim DEI Officer Monique Glaude', DEI Senior Coordinator Zaynah Afada, Amanda Cisneros Community Engagement Coordinator

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- Develop a clear 2025 plan of action for the Human Relations Commission.
- Plan effective community events for engagement.
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Welcome

- **Teambuilding Activity Icebreaker:** Members of the HRC participated in a team-building activity called "Two Truths and One Wish. " They shared two truths and one wish, allowing others to guess their wishes. Amanda Cisneros led this activity.
- **Community Events Planning:** Director Glaude' emphasized the importance of community events and highlighted the necessity for a community needs assessment survey, encouraging the HRC to conduct one in 2025. A sample survey was provided to the members present for their review.
- **Innovative Engagement Activities:** Director Glaude' and Zaynah provided a list of activities the HRC can do for 2025. Members present were provided with the list of activities.
- **Bridging Gaps Exercise:** The Community Engagement and DEI Team led the Bridging Gaps Exercise. This exercise began with an open discussion, which then transitioned into smaller group discussions aimed at identifying gaps in the Topeka community. The session lasted 45 minutes and concluded with presentations from each small group. Ongoing discussions and the next steps for the exercise will take place during the February HRC Meeting.

Q & A/Open Discussion: Members of the HRC asked Director Glaude' about the next steps following the retreat. She shared that the Commissioners will need to decide how to proceed based on the discussions held and the information provided by staff. When asked about the future of the DEI office, she mentioned the potential merger of the DEI and the Office of Community Engagement, stating that Taff is still awaiting direction from leadership.

- **Closing & Next Steps - Monique Glaude'**

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

****Next Meeting: February 22, 2025****

To request an ADA Accommodation, please contact 785-368-3725 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. no later than three working days before this meeting.