



CITY OF TOPEKA

Human Relations Commission
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-4470
www.topeka.org

Upcoming Meeting Information:

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: City of Topeka City Hall, 215 SE 7th St., Topeka, Kansas

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Agenda and Prior November Meeting Minutes
- III. New Business
 - Election of New Chair and Vice Chair
- IV. Old Business
- V. Staff Update
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - i. Planning and Events Committee
 - ii. Advocacy Committee
 - iii. Education and Outreach
- VII. Commissioners Update
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Important Dates/Events
 - a. Black History Month - February 2025
 - b. Women's History Month – March 2025
 - c. Ramadan – March 2025
 - d. Celebrate Diversity Month – April 2025
 - e. Asian American Heritage Month - May 2025
 - f. Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2025
 - g. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 21, 2025
 - h. Jewish American Month – May 2025
 - i. Immigrant Heritage Month – June 2025
 - j. Pride Month – June 2025
 - k. Disability Awareness Month – June 2025



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- l. World Refugee Day – June 20, 2025
- m. National Welcoming Week – September 12-21, 2025
- n. National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2025
- o. Citizenship Day – September 17, 2025
- p. LGBT History Month – October 2025
- q. Native American Heritage Month- November 2025

X. Adjournment

Public Comment Notice: To honor safety mandates surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person public comments will be limited; please contact Brenda Younger, City Clerk, at cclerk@topeka.org regarding meeting attendance or to submit written public comments. Written comments may also be mailed to: 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas 66603. All attendance requests and comments must be received 2 business days prior to the meeting.

To request an ADA Accommodation, please contact 785-368-3797 between the hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm no later than 3 working days in advance of this meeting.



CITY OF TOPEKA

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 18, 2024
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: City Hall 3rd 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 Marisol Marcelo, Commissioner Michaela Kerls, Commissioner Zachary Surritt, Commissioner Jaron Balderes, Commissioner Alexis Simmons, Commissioner Luc Bensimon,

Absent: N/A

Visitors:

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

Adoption of September 9, October 14 Meeting Minutes and November 8 Meeting Agenda

Approval: Commissioner Surritt motioned to approve the meeting with Minutes and the November agenda. Commissioner Kerls seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **New Business**
 - N/A
- **Old Business**
 - The Crown Act: Zaynah provided an update on the Crown Act, stating that the Policy and Advocacy Committee voted to include the Crown Act in the legislative agenda, which will be discussed and voted on November 19, 2024.
 - HRC T-shirt updates: Zaynah asked all HRC members to provide their shirt sizes to complete the order.
- **Staff Update:**
 - Zaynah shared that there have been staffing changes in the Communications Department, stating that because of a lack of staff, the advertisement plan for the HRC will take longer to complete.
 - Zaynah shared that the AARP emailed to inform her that the City of Topeka is not required to submit a report from their community survey in 2024. Further updates will be shared as they are received.
- **Committee Reports.**
 - **Planning and Events**

- The planning Committee shared that everything is ready for the Holliday Posada. The committee will get with staff on the details for last month.
- **Advocacy**
 - The committee provided an update stating they are working on the Crown Act. They are waiting for the City Attorney to learn how this Crown Act will affect the city's non-discrimination policy.
- **Education and Outreach/AARP**
 - The committee shared that they have completed the survey. Commissioner Balderes motioned to amend the AARP Age-Friendly Survey to include demographic questions on age, race, gender, and ethnicity as part of question one. Commissioner Marcelo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Kerls motioned to accept the questions as amended by the previous motion and to share the survey with the public when the Communications Department is available. Commissioner Surritt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Commissioners Updates**
 - Commissioner Surritt shared he has renewed his application to the HRC. He looks forward to his next term.
- **Public Comment.** No public comment.

Important Dates/Events. Chair Romero-Nichols noted the important dates and events for the rest of the year.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.

****Next Meeting: February 10, 2025****

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