



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, July 14, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: City of Topeka Cyrus K. Holliday Building, 620 SE Madison Avenue, 2nd floor. Topeka, Kansas

Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Agenda Approval

III. Meeting Minutes Approval

IV. New Business

- DEIAB, Affirmative Action, and HRC Updates - Staff

V. Old Business

- AARP Ongoing Discussion
 - i. Survey Updates
 - ii. Next Steps

VI. Staff Update

VII. Committee Reports:

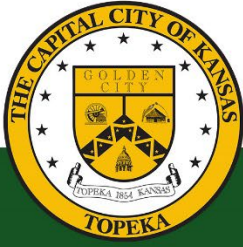
- i. Planning and Events Committee
- ii. Advocacy Committee
- iii. Education and Outreach

VIII. Commissioners Update

IX. Public Comment

X. Important Dates/Events

- a. National Welcoming Week – September 12-21, 2025
- b. National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2025
- c. Citizenship Day – September 17, 2025
- d. LGBT History Month – October 2025



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e. Native American Heritage Month- November 2025

XI. 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 DRAFT

Date: June 09, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room and Zoom

Call to Order. Chair Zachary Surritt called the meeting to order

Roll Call.

Present: Chair Zachary Surritt, Vice Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols; Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Luc Bensimon, Commissioner Michaela Kerls, Commissioner Buzicky

Absent: Commissioner Jaron Balderes

Visitors:

Staff: Sr. Coordinator Zaynah Afada, Director of the Office of Inclusive Communities Monique Glaude'

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Kerls motioned to approve the meeting agenda, Vice Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Roberts motioned to approve the meeting minutes for May 14. Vice Chair Romero-Nichols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- **AARP Survey Update:** Zaynah shared that staff is advertising the AARP Survey on the 1st floor of the Holliday Building on the 1st through the 3rd of every month. She encourages commissioners to sign up to also advertise the surveys to the public, aiding in survey collection.
 - **June Resource Expo Tabling:** Unfortunately, there are no more tables available to reserve for the event; however, Commissioners are invited to attend to engage with vendors.
 - **National Night Out Tabling:** Commissioners can request a table for the National Night Out event taking Place on August 9th from 12-5 PM. The request for a table will need to go to Director Glaude'
 - **I-Care Food Pantry:** Jill Rice at the CRN shared that members of the HRC can table at the food pantry event to continue advertising and collecting responses.
 - **The Office of Inclusive Communities** printed 1200 copies of the Survey for the Meals and Wheels program and hopes to hear back from them regarding the responses soon. Commissioners will be asked to assist with entering the response online to ensure the data is captured correctly. Unfortunately, there were no survey responses from Papan's Landing Senior Center; however, the

banner and copies of the survey have now been moved to the Library. One hundred copies were provided to Luther Place Apartment Retirement Home.

- The survey data will need to be reviewed in October because there are residents outside of Topeka who have completed the Survey.
- Commissioners expressed interest in tabling at the National Night Out Event on August 9th. Commissioner Roberts motioned to have a table for the HRC at the National Night Out event. Vice Chair Romero-Nichols seconded. The motion passed.

- **Old Business**

- AARP Ongoing Discussion:

- **Mission:** The Topeka Human Relations Commission is committed to promoting equity, accessibility, and dignity for residents of all ages. Through this survey, we aim to understand the lived experiences of older adults in our community, identify barriers to age friendliness, and foster a more inclusive city where people can thrive regardless of age or ability.
 - **Vision:** For Topeka to be a city where age is never a barrier to opportunity, involvement, or quality of life. Inspired by the AARP's eight domains of livability, the Topeka Human Relations Commission aims to build inclusive neighborhoods with accessible services and infrastructure that support people of all ages and generations.
 - Commissioner Kerls motioned to adopt the Mission and Vision for the AARP Survey. Commissioner Buzicky seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

- **Staff Update:**

- Director Glaude' shared that the Office of Inclusive Communities now has two interns from Washburn and two interns from the Topeka Way to Work Program. The Washburn interns will be introduced to commissioners in the future. Due to work hours, the Topeka Way to Work interns will not be able to attend the Commissioners meeting; however, both will be at the resource expo, and one will attend the National Night Out event.
 - The Office of Inclusive Communities will acquire a Community Navigator staff. The position will be posted within the next two weeks, and interviews will begin shortly thereafter.

- **Committee Reports.**

- **Planning and Events**

- **Nothing to report**

- **Advocacy**

- Commissioner Buzicky has joined the advocacy subcommittee. Commissioner Buzicky attended a Topeka Tenants meeting for a tenant union training, inquiring whether community members are interested in forming a tenant union. Door knockings will take place. She shared that it would be beneficial

for the HRC to get Topeka Tenants on board and on the same page as the HRC, especially if they're going to be interacting with the public.

- **Education and Outreach**

- **Nothing to Report**

- **Commissioners Updates**

- Commissioner provided updates for correct dates and times for Pride Palooza and Juneteenth.
- The Forge Ideas Committee is helping to promote the Juneteenth Faith and Freedom film screening. This Saturday, the 14th, from 4 – 7 PM at Arts Connect, 909 N Kansas Ave. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Forge, Topeka Black Women Brunch, and Topeka Family and Friends of Juneteenth are organizing this event.
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- **Public Comment.** No public comment.

Important Dates/Events

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

****Next Meeting: July 14, 2025****

To request an ADA Accommodation, please contact 785-368-3725 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, no later than three working days in advance of this meeting.