



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, September 08, 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

- City of Topeka Assistant City Manager – Avery Moore
- City of Topeka Police Chief – Chris Vallejo

V. Old Business

- DEIAB, Affirmative Action, and HRC Updates
- AARP Ongoing Discussion
 - i. Survey Updates

VI. Staff Update

VII. Committee Reports:

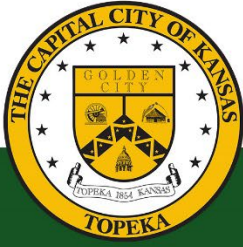
- i. Planning and Events Committee
- ii. Advocacy Committee
- iii. Education and Outreach

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



CITY OF TOPEKA

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

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

- d. LGBTQ History Month – October 2025
- 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 785-368-4470 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: August 11, 2025
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: 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 Alex Buzicky, Commissioner Jaron Balderes

Absent: N/A

Visitors: N/A

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

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Roberts motioned to approve the meeting agenda for August and the meeting minutes for July. Commissioner Kerls. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Buzicky expressed interest in discussing a sales tax poll in the September meeting.

• **New Business**

- Income Protection – Commissioner Buzicky shared that income protection for housing is a good step for the City of Topeka to take. The City of Lawrence Ordinance 9960 could serve as a model for the City of Topeka concerning housing vouchers.
 - Buzicky shared that the Landlords group in Lawrence did retaliate after the passing of Ordinance 9960. The city of Topeka needs to consider the potential retaliation the Landlord's group in Topeka would face if an ordinance were created.
 - Chair Surritt and Commissioner Buzicky will follow up with staff via email for questions that can be asked to City legal staff for a response regarding options for the housing protection ordinance.

• **Old Business**

- DEIAB, Affirmative Action, and HRC Updates – Zaynah shared that there are no updates from legal regarding immigration status protection at this time. The memo staff received from legal regarding DEIAB, Affirmative Action, and HRC changes

has been provided to all HRC members who were present during the July meeting, and a follow-up email was shared with all members.

- AARP Ongoing Discussion – Zaynah shared that there are currently 395 survey responses, with about 90 responses from individuals who are not residents of Topeka.
 - Director Glaude’ shared two more efforts the Office of Inclusive Communities will assist commissioners with to gather more data for the AARP survey. She shared that staff will reach out to the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging to request a table for Medicare open enrollment, which will take place from October 15th to November 13th. Staff will get dates as soon as she speaks with the Executive Director and follows up with commissioners. The Office of Inclusive Communities will send a mailing to churches, asking them to share it with their congregations to increase participation.
- **Staff Update:**
 - Zaynah reminded Commissioners to review and sign the conflict of interest form provided by the Mayor's office and Legal staff.
 - Director Glaude’ shared that the Office of Inclusive Communities welcomed a new team member, whose name is Leo Hope, and he will serve as the Community Navigator for the Office, connecting community members with local resources, services, and opportunities. He will introduce himself at the September meeting.
 - Director Glaude’ shared the success of the National Night Out Event.
- **Committee Reports.**
 - **Planning and Events**
 - **Nothing to report**
 - **Advocacy**
 - **Nothing to report**
 - **Education and Outreach**
 - **Nothing to Report**
- **Commissioners Updates**
 - Chair Surritt shared that the Topeka Police Chief and the Assistant City Manager for Public Safety will join the commissioner for the September meeting to discuss public safety and immigration protection.
 - Commissioners thanked the staff for their efforts during the National Night Out event.
 - Commissioner Balderes will reach out to Chair Surritt to discuss having Central Topeka Grocery Oasis as a speaker for a meeting.
 - Commissioner Balderes shared updates regarding the Mott House, including the damages and concerns/fears in the community. More information on Repaired will be made public soon.
 - Commissioner Bukicky will get Chair Surritt to extend an invitation to El Centro to an HRC meeting.
- **Public Comment.** No public comment.

Important Dates/Events: The chair went over the important dates listed on the agenda.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

****Next Meeting: September 8, 2025****

To request an ADA Accommodation, please get in touch with 785-368-3725 between the hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, no later than three working days in advance of this meeting.