

CITY OF TOPEKA

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

Tel: 785-368-3725
www.topeka.org

Upcoming Meeting Information:

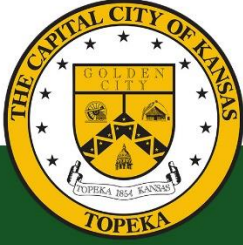
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street, Topeka, Kansas and Zoom

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - II. Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes
 - III. Old Business
 - a. Update on Code Language/Bylaws for the THRC
 - b. Welcoming Week- Committee?
 - i. Taste of Topeka
 - ii. Videos
 - c. Citizenship Legal Clinic
 - i. Around September 17, 2023
 - d. I Voted Sticker Contest, United Way
 - e. HRC Retreat
 - i. May 8, 2023
 - IV. Public Comment
 - V. Important Dates/Events
 - a. Celebrate Diversity Month – April 2023
 - b. Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2023
 - c. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 21, 2023
 - d. Immigrant Heritage Month – June 2023
 - e. World Refugee Day – June 20, 2023
 - f. National Welcoming Week – September 8-17, 2023
 - g. National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2023
 - h. Citizenship Day – September 17, 2023
 - i. LGBT History Month – Oct 1, 2023 - Oct 31, 2023
 - j. Human Rights Day – Sunday, December 10, 2023
 - VI. Adjournment
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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 785-368-3725 between the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm no later than 3 working days in advance of this meeting.



CITY OF TOPEKA

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Date: March 13, 2023
Time: 5:30pm
Location: City Hall – 1st Floor Conference Room; 215 SE 7th Street

Call to Order. Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Roll Call. Present: Chair Carol Roberts; Vice Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols; Commissioner Luc Bensimon (By Zoom); Commissioner Cynthia Hopp (By Zoom); Commissioner Pamela James (By Zoom); and Commissioner Zachary Surrutt. Absent: Commissioner Sean McGimpsey; and Commissioner Alexis Simmons.

Guests. Ernestor De La Rosa, Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer; Mary Kuckelman, Senior City Attorney; and Kaitlyn Willis, Senior Executive Assistant, City Manager's Office.

Adoption of February 13, 2023 Minutes. Vice Chair Romero-Nichols moved and Commissioner Surrutt seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of March 13, 2023 Agenda. Commissioner Surrutt moved and Vice Chair Romero-Nichols seconded a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business.

- **Update on Code Language/Bylaws.** Ernestor De La Rosa discussed the plan to present the Commission with proposed updates to the Ordinance and Bylaws. The current language is broad, so the Commission can continue to work and make changes in the future.

New Business.

- **Welcoming Week.** Ernestor shared that the City has joined Welcoming America. One of their initiatives is Welcoming Week, a week in September to bring newcomers and long-term residents in the community together. The Commission discussed creating short videos to spotlight minority leaders or businesses that can be released during Welcoming Week. The Commission also discussed collaborating with GTP to host a free event at Energy Plaza for the public to try foods from different countries. The consensus was to move forward with both ideas.
- **Citizenship Legal Clinic.** Ernestor discussed partnering with Washburn Law to provide legal assistance to people applying for citizenship. There is interest in having a clinic around Citizen Day on September 17, so the Commission discussed the planning involved to have a clinic around that time.

- **I Voted Sticker Contest, United Way.** Ernestor had a meeting with someone from United Way and discussed voter turnout and engagement. The Commission discussed ways increase turnout and engage groups who do not typically vote.
- **HRC Retreat.** Ernestor shared that the retreat will likely be in May. This retreat will give the Commission the opportunity to strategize, provide more structure, and get to know each other.
- **Diversity Month.** April is Diversity Month, so Ernestor is working with Mayor's office on a proclamation that will be presented at the April 4 Governing Body meeting.

Public Comment. No public comment.

Important Dates/Events. Ernestor noted the events below.

- Celebrate Diversity Month – April
- Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2023
- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 21, 2023
- Immigrant Heritage Month – June 2023
- World Refugee Day – June 20, 2023
- National Welcoming Week – September 8-17, 2023
- National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2023
- Citizenship Day – September 17, 2023
- LGBT History Month – Oct 1, 2023 - Oct 31, 2023
- Human Rights Day – Sunday, December 10, 2023

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

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