

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, July 10, 2023

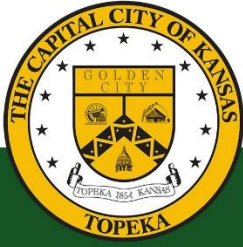
Time: 5:30 PM

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. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Subcommittee
 - c. Commissioner
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Welcoming Week- Initiatives
 - i. Taste of Topeka Festival, Sunday Sept. 17th
 - ii. Welcoming Videos, Sept. 8th – 17th
 - iii. Newcomers Academy, July 26th – Sept. 12th
 - b. “How to become a U.S. Naturalized Citizen?” Session, Thursday, Sept. 14th
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Important Dates/Events
 - a. National Welcoming Week – September 8-17, 2023
 - b. National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2023
 - c. Citizenship Day – September 17, 2023
 - d. LGBT History Month – Oct 1, 2023 - Oct 31, 2023
 - e. Human Rights Day – Sunday, December 10, 2023
- VII. 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.



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CITY OF TOPEKA

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Date: June 12, 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 5:31 pm.

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

Guests. Ernestor De La Rosa, Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer; Zaynah Afada, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Program Coordinator; Mary Kuckelman, Senior City Attorney; and Kaitlyn Willis, Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

Welcome and Introductions. The Commission made introductions and welcomed new Commissioner, Marisol Marcelo.

Adoption of April 24, 2023 Minutes. Commissioner McGimpsey moved and Commissioner Surritt seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of June 12, 2023 Agenda. Vice Chair Romero-Nichols moved and Commissioner McGimpsey seconded a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business.

- **Update on Code Language/Bylaws.** Ernestor De La Rosa shared that he has reviewed the language and no major changes need to be made. The only section that may be removed is Section 2(e), which currently states that one of the duties of the commission is the review quarterly reports from the Independent Police Auditor and report any concerns to the City Manager. The consensus of the commission is to hold off on proposing any changes for the time being.
- **Welcoming Week.** Ernestor De La Rosa discussed initiatives below.
 - **Taste of Topeka Festival.** This event will take place in Evergy Plaza on Sunday, September 17. Ernestor reviewed the preliminary budget for this event and the Commission discussed potential sponsors.
 - **Videos.** Ernestor shared that the DEI office is working on identifying businesses to spotlight in these videos.
 - **Newcomers Academy.** Ernestor shared that the DEI office is currently planning a Newcomers Academy. This will be an 8-week pilot program that will start this summer to welcome Ukrainian refugees in the community.

- **Citizenship Legal Clinic.** Ernestor discussed hosting two sessions with Q&As about becoming a citizen instead of a citizenship legal clinic. One of the sessions will be specific to Ukrainian refugees in the community.

New Business.

- **Subcommittees.** Vice Chair Romero-Nichols moved and Commissioner McGimpsey seconded a motion to form the Education & Outreach subcommittee, Event Planning subcommittee, and Policy & Advocacy subcommittee.
 - **Education and Outreach:** Chair Roberts; Commissioner Bensimon; Commissioner Hopp
 - **Event Planning.** Chair Roberts; Vice Chair Romero Nichols; Commissioner James; Commissioner Marcelo.
 - **Policy and Advocacy.** Commissioner McGimpsey; Commissioner Simmons; Commissioner Surratt.
- **Immigrant Heritage Month Proclamation.** Ernestor shared that this proclamation will be issued at the June 13, 2023 Governing Body Meeting at 6:00pm and invited commissioners to attend.

Other announcements.

- The DEI Office is partnering with the Mexican Consulate on an art exhibit. The Commission discussed potential locations in the City for this exhibit.
- The City of Topeka will have a table at the Juneteenth celebration on Saturday. Zaynah Afada will be manning table. Planning same set up for City of Topeka.
- Washburn hosted a session on HB 2350, and there was a lot of participation.
- Zaynah Afada has been working on demographic workforce report. A final report will be shared with the Commission when it is ready.

Public Comment. No public comment.

Important Dates/Events. Ernestor noted the dates and events below.

- 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 6:31p.m.

****Next Meeting: July 10, 2023****

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