



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, August 14, 2023

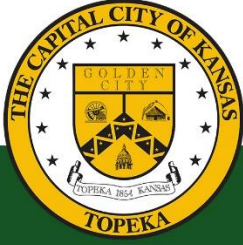
Time: 5:30 PM

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

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: July 10, 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; and Commissioner Zachary Surritt. Absent: Commissioner Alexis Simmons.

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.

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

Adoption of July 10, 2023 Agenda. Vice Chair Romero-Nichols moved and Commissioner McGimpsey seconded a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business.

- **Welcoming Week.** Ernestor De La Rosa discussed initiatives below.
 - **Taste of Topeka Festival.** The commission discussed the budget and sponsorships for this event on September 17 at Everygy Plaza. Marketing for this event will begin in August and invitations will be sent to potential vendors.
 - **Videos.** Ernestor met with city communications staff and they plan to put together 3-5 videos for Welcoming Week.
 - **Newcomers Academy.** This 8-week pilot program will begin Wednesday, July 26 for Ukrainian refugees in the community. Ernestor will share an updated schedule and invited Commissioners to attend when available.
- **“How to Become a U.S. Naturalized Citizen” Session.** Ernestor discussed the session that we will have open to the public on Thursday, September 14. A private session may be held for Ukrainian refugees earlier. More information will be shared when available.

Other Announcements.

- The City of Topeka is partnering with the Mexican Consulate to host a Mexican Art Exhibit at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library on Wednesday, July 19 at 5:30pm.
- The Event Planning Subcommittee will begin meeting to help plan for the Welcoming Week initiatives.
- We will be asking for in-person attendance for the August 14 HRC Meeting to take photos.

Public Comment. No public comment.

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

- 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 5:56p.m.

****Next Meeting: August 14, 2023****

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