



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, November 20, 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. New Business
 - a. Holiday Posada
 - b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - c. 2023 HRC Annual Report
 - d. Diversity Entrepreneurship Program, National League of Cities
 - i. Diversity Supplier
 - ii. Reducing Barriers for Hispanic/Latino Businesses
- IV. Old Business
 - a. AARP Age Friendly Initiative
 - b. Small Business Incentive Program
- V. Other Announcements
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Important Dates/Events
 - a. Human Rights Day – Sunday, December 10, 2023
- VIII. 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 785-368-3917 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: October 9, 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 5:30 pm.

Roll Call. Present: Chair Carol Roberts; Vice Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols; Commissioner Luc Bensimon; Commissioner Alexis Simmons; and Commissioner Zachary Surrutt. Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Hopp; Commissioner Pamela James; and Commissioner Marisol Marcelo.

Guests. Andi Bozarth, AARP Representative; Ernestor De La Rosa, Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer; Zaynah Afada, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Program Coordinator; and Kaitlyn Willis, Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

Adoption of September 11, 2023 Minutes. Vice Chair Surrutt moved and Commissioner Simmons Romero-Nichols seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of October 9, 2023 Agenda. Vice Chair Romero-Nichols Surrutt moved and Commissioner Simmons seconded a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business.

- **AARP Presentation - Age Friendly Initiative.** Andi Bozarth gave a presentation on the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (NAFSC). If the City of Topeka joined the network, the city would be assessed, an action plan would be created to make the city more age-friendly, and then the City would be evaluated after five years. Following the presentation, the Commission tabled this discussion for a future meeting.

Old Business.

- **Poverty Simulation.** Ernestor asked for volunteers to help host a poverty simulation on October 26 at the Beacon.

Other Announcements.

- Commissioner McGimpsey resigned from the Commission, so Ernestor asked the Commission to consider who can fill that vacancy.
- Ernestor shared that the City and GTP had three Spanish presentations about the Small Business Incentive Program and will be hosting a workshop.
- The City will be participating in NLC's City Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program.

- Ernestor asked for feedback on having a Holiday Posada in December to network and celebrate the upcoming holidays. The Commission discussed potential dates and sponsors.

Public Comment. No public comment.

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

- National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2023
- LGBT History Month – Oct 1, 2023 - Oct 31, 2023
- Human Rights Day – Sunday, December 10, 2023

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:35p.m.

****Next Meeting: November 13, 2023****

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