



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, March 11, 2024

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. Introduction of Interim DIE Officer
 - b. New Commissioner Introduction
 - c. AARP Age-Friendly Community Award
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Committee Reports:
 - i. Planning and Events Committee
 1. Taste of Topeka
 - ii. Advocacy Committee
 1. NLC Commitments
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Important Dates/Events
 - a. Black History Month - February 2024
 - b. Women's History Month – March 2023
 - c. Celebrate Diversity Month – April 2024
 - d. Asian American Heritage Month - May 2024
 - e. Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2024
 - f. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 21, 2024
 - g. Jewish American Month – May 2024
 - h. Immigrant Heritage Month – June 2024
 - i. Pride Month – June 2024
 - j. Disability Awareness Month – June 2024
 - k. World Refugee Day – June 20, 2024
 - l. National Welcoming Week – September 13-22, 2024
 - m. National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2024



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- n. Citizenship Day – September 17, 2024
- o. LGBT History Month – October 1- 31, 2024
- p. Native American Heritage Month- November 2024
- q. Human Rights Day – Sunday, December 10, 2024

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.

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: February 12, 2024
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: City Hall 1st Floor Conference Room and Zoom

Call to Order. Chair Romero-Nichols called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

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

Guests. 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 January 8, 2024 Minutes and February 12, 2024 Agenda. Vice Chair Roberts moved, and Commissioner Marcelo seconded a motion to adopt the minutes and agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business.

- **2023 HRC Annual Report.** Chair Romero-Nichols and Vice Chair Roberts will give a presentation at the next Governing Body meeting on February 20. Ernestor encouraged Commissioners to attend if possible.
- **Committee Reports.**
 - **Planning and Events**
 - **Taste of Topeka.** The Commission discussed raising funding for this event. The goal is to raise \$15,000 before other planning. Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to community organizations to get donations. Zaynah will send an email to the Commission with more information.
 - **Advocacy**
 - **NLC Commitments**
 - Ernestor shared that the City has applied for funding for the two commitments: Anchor Procurement and Reducing Barriers for Hispanic/Latino Businesses.
- **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.** Ernestor shared that the application was approved, so the City of Topeka is officially a part of the network. A press release will be created, and there will be a ceremony at an HRC meeting or Governing Body meeting.

- **Other Announcements.**

- **Top City Promise Annual Gala.** The Commission discussed the upcoming gala on Saturday, February 24 at 7 pm.

Public Comment. No public comment.

Important Dates/Events. Ernestor noted the important dates and events for the rest of the year.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

****Next Meeting: March 11, 2024****

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