



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, May 13, 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. AARP Age-Friendly Community Award
 - b. AARP 5-Year Plan
 - c. HRC Marketing Plan – Communications Department
 - i. Community Survey Planning and Discussion
 - d. New Commissioner Appointment
 - e. Pride Palooza June 22, 2024
- 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. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 21, 2024
 - b. Jewish American Month – May 2024
 - c. Immigrant Heritage Month – June 2024
 - d. Pride Month – June 2024
 - e. Disability Awareness Month – June 2024
 - f. World Refugee Day – June 20, 2024
 - g. National Welcoming Week – September 13-22, 2024
 - h. National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2024
 - i. Citizenship Day – September 17, 2024
 - j. LGBT History Month – October 1- 31, 2024



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- k. Native American Heritage Month- November 2024
- l. 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: March 11, 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 5:36 pm.

Roll Call. Present: Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols; Vice Chair Roberts; Commissioner Luc Bensimon; Commissioner Marisol Marcelo, Commissioner Michael Kerls, and Commissioner Zachary Surratt

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia Hopp, Commissioner Pamela James, Commissioner Alexis Simmons;

Guests. Monique Glaude', Interim Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer; Zaynah Afada, Sr. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Program Coordinator; Taylor Bugg, Interim Co-Communications Director; Michael Padilla, Mayor.

Adoption of February 12, 2024 Minutes and March 11, 2024 Agenda. Vice Chair Roberts moved, and Commissioner Surratt seconded a motion to adopt the minutes and agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business.

- **Introduction of the Interim DEI Officer.** Monique Glaude introduced herself to members of the commission as the Community Engagement Director and the Interim DEI Officer.
- **New Commissioner Introduction.** Commissioner Michaela Kerls introduced herself as the new Commissioner from District 5, describing her role in the community and the work she does. All members of the HRC present introduced themselves.
- **AARP Age-Friendly Community Award.** The AARP Team was absent; Commissioner Surratt motioned to postpone the AARP topic to April, and Commissioner Kerls seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Committee Reports.**
 - **Planning and Events**
 - **Taste of Topeka.** Zaynah provided an update informing the commission of the new idea to host a food truck festival and include restaurants in Topeka instead of having individuals cook for the events. Because of the Lack of funding to host Taste of Topeka, the Commissioner will focus on seeking funding in 2024 and conducting community surveys for a second event option. Members of the Commission will work with the Communication Department for assistance.

- **Advocacy**
 - **NLC Commitments**
 - Zaynah shared the City’s commitments to the National League of Cities (NLC), which include Anchor Procurement and Reducing Barriers for Hispanic/Latino Businesses. She also provided updates regarding the meeting and the follow-up regarding the grant application.
 - Zaynah informed Commissioners that the City will lead the Anchor Procurement Initiative, and Omni Circle will lead the commitment of Hispanic Latino businesses.
- **Other Announcements.**
 - **None at this time**
- **Public Comment.** No public comment.

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

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

****Next Meeting: April 08, 2024****

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