



CITY OF TOPEKA

Human Relations Commission
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-4470
www.topeka.org

Upcoming Meeting Information:

Date: Monday, October 14, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: City of Topeka Holliday Building, 620 SE Madison St., Topeka, Kansas

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - II. Agenda and Prior July and August Meeting Minutes
 - III. New Business
 - a. The Crown Act – HRC & Legal
 - b. T-Shirts Purchase and Sizes – Staff
 - IV. Old Business
 - V. Staff Update
 - a. Advertisement Plan
Updated headshot and picture layout similar to Council
 - VI. Committee Reports:
 - i. Planning and Events Committee
 - ii. Advocacy Committee
 - iii. Education and Outreach
 - VII. Commissioners Update
 - VIII. Public Comment
 - IX. Important Dates/Events
 - a. National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 - October 15, 2024
 - b. LGBT History Month – October 1- 31, 2024
 - c. Native American Heritage Month- November 2024
 - d. Human Rights Day – Sunday, December 10, 2024
 - X. Adjournment
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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 785-368-3797 between the hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm no later than 3 working days in advance of this meeting.



CITY OF TOPEKA

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Date: September 09, 2024,

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: City of Topeka Holliday Building 1st Floor Conference Room and Zoom

Call to Order. Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Roll Call.

Present: Chair Carmen Romero-Nichols, Vice Chair Roberts, Commissioner Zachary Surrirt, Commissioner Alexis Simmons, Commissioner Jaron Balderes, Commissioner Marcelo, Commissioner Pamela James,

Absent: Commissioner Luc Bensimon (excused), Commissioner Michaela Kerls (excused)

Visitors:

Staff: DEI Senior Coordinator Zaynah Afada

Adoption of July 8 and August 12 Meeting Minutes: Vice Chair Roberts motioned to accept the July and August meeting minutes, and Commissioner Marcelo Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

• New Business.

- **HRC Retreat:** Zaynah encouraged the commissioner to begin thinking and planning for the 2025 Retreat to help prepare for events and create a strategic plan for 2025. Chair Romero suggested the retreat take place in either January or February 2025. Vice Chair Roberts motioned to make the January 2025 HRC meeting the retreat meeting, taking place from 5-6:30 p.m. Commissioner Zurrirt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The location for the retreat will take place at City Hall or the Holliday Building, depending on room availability.
- **HRC Webpage update:** Chair Romero-Nichols shared that the HRC webpage has not been updated to include newly appointed commissioners and removal of those who resigned. She also shared that the Facebook picture is outdated. She requests that new commissioners provide bios to be added to the webpage.

• Old Business

- N/A

• Staff update

- Zaynah informed staff of the options for T-shirts and Polos with New Commissioners Logo. Commissioners requested options of polo that have been used in the past to be shared with them to make a decision

- **Committee Reports.**
 - **Planning and Events**
 - The committee shared that their team met and finalized food options for the holiday posada.
 - **Advocacy**
 - The committee shared updates on the voter registration drive, conversations with the League of Women Voters, Citizenship Day, and the potential of having an HRC table at the voter registration event.
 - **Education and Outreach/AARP**
 - The committee shared that they met with the Director of JAAA to discuss the AARP survey for the public. The meeting helped provide insight on changes needed for the next steps.
- **Commissioners Updates**
 - Commissioners thanked Commissioner Pamela James for her service to the Commission. Her last meeting Was on September 9, 2024.
 - Commissioner Jaron Balderes announced that Topeka Pride is having a picnic event on Saturday, September 28th, at 3:30. Food and music will be available, and he encourages commissioners to attend.
 - Chair Romero-Nicles shared that commissioners attended the National Night Out Event on August 6 to inform the public about the HRC.
 - Commissioner Jaron Balderes shared that the Indian Mela will take place on September 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Everygy Plaza in Down Town. He encourages commissioners to attend.
- **Public Comment.**
 - No public comment.

Important Dates/Events. Chair Romero-Nichols noted the important dates and events for the rest of the year.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

****Next Meeting: October 14, 2024****

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HOLIDAY *Posada*

The City of Topeka Human Relations Commission cordially invites you to join us for a Holiday Posada!

DECEMBER 9, 2024

6 - 8 P.M.

**GOVERNOR'S ROW HOUSE
EVENT CENTER**

811 SW BUCHANAN ST.

TOPEKA, KS 66606

Food and light refreshments will be provided.



If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Zaynah Afada at zafada@topeka.org or 785-368-3797.