



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, February 12, 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. Old Business
 - a. 2023 HRC Annual Report & Presentation
 - b. Committee Reports:
 - i. Planning and Events Committee
 1. Taste of Topeka
 - ii. Advocacy Committee
 1. NLC Commitments
- IV. New Business
- V. Public Comment
- VI. 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: January 8, 2024
Time: 5:30pm
Location: Zoom

Call to Order. Chair Romero-Nichols called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

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

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 December 11, 2023 Minutes and January 8, 2024 Agenda. Commissioner Surritt moved and Commissioner Marcelo seconded a motion to amend the minutes to reflect that Chair Romero-Nichols was elected to be Chair. Chair Romero-Nichols moved and Chair Roberts seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as amended and the agenda as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business.

- **Election of Vice Chair.** A Zoom poll was conducted asking Commissioners to vote for either Commissioner Bensimon or Commissioner Roberts to serve as Vice Chair. The results of the poll were displayed and showed that Commissioner Roberts was selected. Chair Romero-Nichols asked for a vote to approve this selection, and the Commission voted unanimously to elect Commissioner Roberts to serve as Vice Chair.
- **2023 HRC Annual Report.** Ernestor shared that he and Zaynah are continuing to edit the report.
- **NLC Diversity Entrepreneurship Program.** Ernestor shared that he has been meeting with community partners and discussed a potential grant that we can apply for to help implement this program.
- **AARP Presentation - Age Friendly Initiative.** Zaynah shared that she is working on the application and it should be submitted before the next meeting.

Other Announcements.

- **Taste of Topeka.** Ernestor stated that the Event Planning Subcommittee will be meeting this month to discuss this event.
- **MEI.** Ernestor discussed the LGBTQ Liaison position with the Police Department.

- **TopCity Promise Annual Gala.** Ernestor encouraged Commissioners to attend this fundraising gala on Saturday, February 24 at 7pm.

Public Comment. No public comment.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:04p.m.

****Next Meeting: February 12, 2024****

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