



## Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting | April 21, 2025 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Casey Bakhsh, Dezeray Edwards, Drew France, Larissa McNeil, Anthony Meadows, Parisa Pilehvar, Josiah Robinson, Tamecca Rogers, Joshua Starks, Andrea Walker, Dave Walker

Commissioners Absent: Katie Eller Murray, Amanda Peregrina

#### I. **Call to Order and Introductions**

- a. Chairwoman Walker called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

#### II. **Compassionate Tulsa Award Presentation**

- a. Chairwoman Walker turned the meeting over to Compassionate Tulsa's Chair Dr. Gary Peluso.
- b. Gary shared Compassionate Tulsa is working on getting to know HRC Commissioners better, told Commissioners to look for an invite to meet with him.
- c. Compassionate Tulsa Award given to Jana Rugg.

#### III. **Approve Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairwoman Walker entertained a motion to approve the March meeting minutes.
  - i. Vice Chair Robinson made a motion, Commissioner Bakhsh seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
      - a. Commissioner Starks was not yet present in the meeting.
  - ii. Motion carried, March meeting minutes approved.

#### IV. **Guest Speaker: Mayor Monroe Nichols**

- a. Mayor Nichols began by expressing his appreciation for the Title V Commissions.
- b. Shared priorities as mayor: homelessness, economic growth balanced across the City, families and children, public safety, and tribal partnership.
  - i. Potential cuts to mental health will impact goal of reaching functional zero homelessness. Working to communicate true impact.
  - ii. Increasing shelter capacity: low barrier shelter, winter weather shelter, compassionate homeless decampment
  - iii. Bad things can happen quickly, building sustainable systems takes longer.
- c. Student outcomes: Office of Children, Youth, and Families
  - i. Cross-connecting with housing and education and identifying where City plays a role.
  - ii. First children's cabinet meeting in two weeks.

- d. Public safety: Commissioner Laurel Roberts in the Mayor's Office will align public safety resources and accountability in Mayor's office.
  - i. 650+ folks diverted from law enforcement interactions to mental health services in March 2025 through 911 system
  - ii. Family and Children's Services clinician embedded in 911 call center listening to calls & flagging for mental health interventions.
  - iii. Spay & neuter voucher included with citations, people are now calling asking to be cited so they can receive the discounted service. Working with animal-serving organizations to bring needed services to the community.
- e. Tribal partnership: Have dismissed cases and referred them to tribal courts [Muscogee (Creek) Nation] and working on a framework to do this with regularity moving forward.
- f. Values-driven leadership, collaborative problem solving.
- g. Commission Discussion:
  - i. Commissioner Edwards: Appreciate the conversation about 911, which also came up last month with the City Auditor. If someone wants to know about 911 changes, where do we learn more?
    - 1. Mayor: Not sure there is a website, the press conference announcing the mental health provider role was last week. Happy to share any information needed. Working on continued improvement for the system.
  - ii. Chairwoman Walker: HRC's focus is on civic engagement. What can we do to support your work or serve as a resource?
    - 1. Mayor: Want people from all backgrounds to be represented in the priority areas. Need trusted messengers, City communication to commissions to bring the voice of the people to government. Must elevate community issues, needs, and opportunities.
  - iii. Commissioner Bakhsh: Are you looking at homelessness work in tiers? Fair Housing Committee has discussed opportunities to review contracts and infuse mental health/trauma-informed lens throughout the process.
    - 1. Mayor: Largest provider of outreach services for the City is GRAND Mental Health, almost no cases in which a City employee is doing outreach. Offered to have a future meeting with partners (ie: Housing Solutions, GRAND) to dive deeper into operations. Could have HRC lean in with eviction mitigation work and be part of the policy-making process.
- h. Mayor Nichols closed by reflecting that if HRC sees anything the City can be doing differently or better, share with the Mayor's Office. A lot of people are counting you.

**V. Chair / Vice Chair Report – no report**

**VI. Review and Vote: Updated HRC Operational Process Document**

- a. Chairwoman Walker highlighted changes from the original HRC Operational Process Document. Reasoning is to make more efficient use of meeting time.

- i. Commissioner France added that having advanced notice is helpful to review materials and make an informed decision. Lexi clarified that the call to action will be included in the agenda and any supplementary materials will be sent in advance of the meeting.
  - ii. Commissioner Bakhsh noted that sometimes urgent issues arise that need to be added closer to the meeting date.
- b. Chairwoman Walker entertained a motion to approve the updated HRC Operational Processes Document.
  - i. Commissioner Pilehvar made a motion, Commissioner Rogers seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - ii. Motion carries, updated HRC Operational Processes Document approved.

**VII. Discussion and Vote: 2025 HRC Goals and Action Plan**

- a. Chairwoman Walker reviewed the 2025 Goals and Action Plan.
  - i. Recognized Commissioner Bakhsh for drafting the language for Goal 1.
  - ii. Might need to limit in scope to make feasible for one year.
- b. Commission Discussion:
  - i. Commissioner McNeil: Will current committees adjust to do this work?
    - 1. Chairwoman Walker: Open to discussion. Might create a committee or two to focus on particular goals or action steps.
  - ii. Vice Chair Robinson: Believe Goal 1 is important. Partnering with City Auditor's office seems like a promising pathway to identify opportunities to adjust or update.
    - 1. Chairwoman Walker added that this is something that HRC has talked about for a long time. Will be more involved than simply fixing a document, may have more far-reaching implications.
  - iii. Commissioner Pilehvar reflected that these goals feel right to ensure we know what human rights violations are happening. Don't know what is going to happen in the future. Want to learn more about current complaint filing process. Worry that only focusing on ABC recruitment has too many barriers
    - 1. Commissioner France: Need to agree on what the problem to be solved is and what is not optimized, then determine how to make that improvement.
  - iv. Chairwoman Walker noted that both goals tie back to community engagement and having voices heard.
  - v. Commissioner Rogers: Is there a list of what's in our jurisdiction?
    - 1. Chairwoman: Can look at City Ordinance.
    - 2. Commissioner Edwards raised the need for an HRC orientation.
    - 3. Lexi noted that the City Attorney created a one pager answering this question, currently being reviewed by Chairwoman Walker and Vice Chair Robinson and will be send to all HRC.
  - vi. Commissioner Edwards also pointed to the diverse representation practices in Goal 2.



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- vii. Commissioner Bakhsh raised that HRC has talked about the complaints process since she joined HRC, have previously come across roadblocks and seen that many folks in the City have small pieces.
  - 1. Commissioner Starks agreed it's been a conversation for the six years he's been on HRC. How do we get the information out there more, how do we meet people where they're at? Examine how we're marketing and receiving information, need multiple strategies.
  - 2. Chairwoman Walker proposes adding another objective to create an educational tool.
  - 3. Commissioner Bakhsh shared her experience being at fair housing events and making connections.
- c. Chairwoman Walker checked the group consensus that HRC wants to work on both goals, with Goal 1 being a priority.
- d. Chairwoman Walker entertained a motion to approve the 2025 HRC Goals and Action Plan as a working document, adding an educational outreach outcome to Goal 1.
  - i. Commissioner France made a motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, 2025 HRC Goals and Action Plan approved as a working document with one addition.

**VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Title V Commissions Calls for Action** – no calls to action

**IX. Old Business** – no old business

**X. New Business** – no new business

**XI. Announcements / Public Comments** – no announcements or public comments

**XII. Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Walker entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Edwards made a motion, Commissioner Bakhsh seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
      - a. Commissioner Pilehvar left the meeting prior to the motion.
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.