



Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting | February 16, 2026 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Ana Barros, Whitney Cipolla, Dezeray Edwards, Drew France, Anthony Meadows, Katie Eller Murray, Amanda Peregrina, Parisa Pilehvar, Joyce Roberts, Joshua Starks, Andrea Walker, Dave Walker

Commissioners Absent: Casey Bakhsh, Larissa McNeil, Tamecca Rogers

I. Call to Order

a. Chairwoman Andrea Walker called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

II. Approve Meeting Minutes

a. Chairwoman Walker entertained a motion to approve the November meeting minutes.

i. Commissioner Starks made a motion, Commissioner Meadows seconded.

1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Commissioner Roberts)

a. Commissioners Eller Murray and Cipolla were not yet present in the meeting.

ii. Motion carried, November meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

a. Commissioner Eller Murray arrived at 3:33 pm.

b. Chairwoman Walker acknowledged Black History Month. Recognized Race Massacre history, which was long ignored in classrooms, and hopes we're moving towards a new future. Highlighted some influential figures who have impacted our understanding of race and human rights in Tulsa.

c. Commissioner Cipolla arrived at 3:40 pm.

d. A Way Home for Tulsa success: 24% increase in housing in 2025

e. Children's Cabinet Update: Approved charter and decided on four priority areas for 2026—youth workforce, transportation, housing stability, and literacy. Also discussed legislative advocacy and sharing information amongst entities represented on the cabinet to better coordinate efforts.

f. This will be Chairwoman Walker's last meeting as Chair. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

IV. Committee Updates Aligned with 2025 HRC Goals

a. Vice Chair France: Improve access to the City of Tulsa Department of Resilience and Equity's resources

i. This working group is going through a process for commissioners to learn, record, and share other cities' practices for receiving human rights complaints. Using an email template and interview script to gather information. Commissioner



Roberts has reached out to three cities so far and La Kendra has reached out to several.

- ii. It's already evident there are multiple methods other cities are using including email and online portals. No cities require complaints to go through the City Clerk's office, which Tulsa currently does.
 - iii. Will continue to gather info from identified cities, synthesize potential best practices, and consult with La Kendra, City Legal, and City IT to see what makes most sense for Tulsa.
- b. Commissioner Pilehvar: Increase diverse representation and equitable recruitment practices across all City of Tulsa ABCs
- i. This working group is at a decision point of what to do with the data gathered. Commissioner Pilehvar proposed starting with city council composition.
 - ii. HRC reviewed the draft memo.
 - 1. This version has updated City Council district sizes. There is also an opportunity to get updated ABC numbers for the official submission.
 - 2. Will have all updated data next month to vote on the memo that will be submitted to City Council.
 - iii. There are other aspects of identity captured in the full data set that Commissioner Pilehvar would like to share with the other Title V Commissions. HRC has liaisons representing other commissions, so liaisons can take this information back to empower other Title V Commissions and invite them into the work.
 - iv. Commissioner Edwards volunteered to help with next steps of the work.

V. Committee, Liaison, and Title V Commissions Calls for Action

- a. Commissioner Cipolla: Present 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee Recommendations to Mayor Nichols
- i. In December, the Mayor's Office convened a diverse group of 2SLGBTQIA+ community members. Mayor Nichols wanted to know what can be done to make Tulsa more inclusive for 2SLGBTQIA+ community. At the conclusion of the meeting, the 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee had an action item to assemble a streamlined list of recommendations to submit to the Mayor's Office, which the committee has completed.
 - ii. Many recommendations from the 1976 and 1994 reports have still not come to fruition.
 - iii. Recommendations:
 - 1. Through Executive Order, extend protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity to public accommodations and have the City of Tulsa's legal team issue a legal opinion defining the scope of these protections.
 - 2. Through Executive Order, establish a 2SLGBTQIA+ Commission, rather than a committee under the Human Rights Commission, to ensure dedicated resources and public accountability for progress. Then, work collaboratively with the City Council to ensure this commission operates in perpetuity under Title V by revising city ordinance.



3. Add data points to Tulsa’s Equality Indicators framework that measure disparities based on sexual orientation and gender identity and/or include annual updates to the City of Tulsa’s Municipal Equality Indicators score when new data is released.
 4. Ban the harmful and non-evidence-based practice of conversion therapy in Tulsa, using the City of Norman’s ordinance language as a model.
 5. Facilitate collaboration with the Office of Children, Youth, and Families and the Office of Health and Well-Being to support infrastructure for ongoing, culturally competent training for health care and social service providers.
- iv. Committee Next Steps:
1. Establish two subcommittees focused on policy and research and community outreach.
 2. Commission a report to gather demographic data, survey data, public input, evidence-based research, and model language to inform future policy recommendations.
- v. Commission Discussion:
1. Chairwoman Walker asked about the process to prioritize recommendations.
 - a. Commissioner Cipolla: The committee executive team read the binders of historic reports and prioritized what the community has been asking for for decades. Everything requested has come up multiple times in community spaces and was voiced in the Mayor’s meeting.
 - b. Chairwoman Walker expressed moderate surprise that conversion therapy is still legal when evidence is very clear that it is harmful. Enacting a ban would be very helpful.
 2. Commissioner Barros: Where did the binders come from?
 - a. Commissioner Cipolla: The Equality Center history project. Deputy Mayor Reyes had an intern scan the physical binders, so we now have digital versions.
 3. Commissioner Edwards noted a previous City study that included some recommendations were related to the LGBTQ+ community.
 4. Vice Chair France: Do you see a role for HRC to assist?
 - a. Commissioner Cipolla: Research, community outreach, and sharing when the committee hosts events and listening sessions. Continuing to push for more inclusive public accommodations. One upcoming committee project aligns with HRC’s goal about updating the human rights complaints process.
- b. Commissioner Bakhsh: Fair Housing Committee 2026 Goals, Priorities, and Feedback – no report

VI. Nominating Committee Presents 2026 Officer Slate

- a. In Commissioner Bakhsh’s absence, Commissioner Pilehvar presented the slate.
- b. Nominations:



- i. Chair: Drew France
- ii. Vice Chair: Tamecca Rogers
- c. Open for Nominations from the Floor
 - i. Chairwoman Walker opened the floor for additional nominations.
 - ii. No additional nominations were made.

VII. Action: Elect 2026 Officers

- a. Chairwoman Walker called for a vote to elect Vice Chair France as Chair.
 - i. Aye: 12, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - ii. Vice Chair France elected as Chair.
- b. Chairwoman Walker called for a vote to elect Commissioner Rogers as Vice Chair.
 - i. Aye: 12, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - ii. Commissioner Rogers elected as Vice Chair.
- c. Commissioner Pilehvar recognized Commissioners Bakhsh and Eller Murray for their work on the Nominating Committee.

VIII. Old Business – no old business

IX. New Business – no new business

X. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Vice Chair France thanked everyone for their trust in electing him as Chair. He has learned a great deal from everyone he has served on HRC with. Huge thanks to Chairwoman Walker. Will rely on everyone to continue work this year as so many issues such as housing and immigration intersect with human rights.
- b. Commissioner Barros shared more about the Children’s Cabinet third grade reading priority. There is a proposed piece of state legislation where 3rd grade students who don’t pass state testing will automatically be retained. Policy without wholistic funding and resources is not likely to be successful in improving reading proficiency and education outcomes for students.
- c. Save the date for the Title V and Beyond Apology Commissions Retreat: July 24

XI. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Walker entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Eller Murray made a motion, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 12, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.