GREATER TULSA AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

November 2026 | Meeting: November 10, 2026

Chair Report

Chair Humprey is preparing to move full steam ahead with the strategic plan, which will determine reasons why Black Tulsans choose to leave or stay in the area. A priority is tracking the economic mobility of the community. Through the survey that will go out to community members periodically, GTAAAC will be able to track its impact as we work to support the needs of Black Tulsans.

Community Updates

- The Greenwood Legacy Corporation, responsible for the Kirkpatrick Heights development, inducted its inaugural Council of Elders on 10/24. Commissioner Carter-Breekner is among the 9 elders selected for this honor. We appreciate the Commissioner for all of her work in the community.
- Voting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3 across the state. Polling places in North Tulsa include Rudisill Library, Suburban Acres Library, Woodlake Family Church Turley, 36th St. N Event Center, Gethsemane Baptist Church, TCC Northeast Campus, St. Andrews Baptist Church, Lacy Park Community Center, and Full Gospel Family Outreach. Visit https://okvoterportal.okelections.gov/ to find your location.



Founding Commissioners Maybelle Wallace and Margaret Love were given their flowers in early October at the Community Prayer Breakfast Honoring North Tulsa Jewels. The jewels, according to the host, are “senior citizens 80 and older whose lives, faith, memories, and contributions are part of the story of North Tulsa. “ It is a well-deserved honor.

Upcoming Events

2: Really Basic Computer Class - Rudisill Library, 10 a.m.

3: Midterm Elections - Tulsa Polling Locations, 7-7p.m.

4: Equality Indicators Summit - University of Tulsa, 8 a.m.

5: North Tulsa Community Conversation with Mayor Nichols - Rudisill Library, 5:30 p.m.

6: First Friday Art Crawl - Downtown Tulsa, 6 p.m.

7: Color Me Jazzy Paint & Sip - Rudisill Library, 2:30 p.m.

14: Military Records and Genealogy - Rudisill Library, 3 p.m.

17: Little Fall Ball - Rudisill Library, 10:30 a.m.

27: Erin Stevenson Velvet Night Series - LowDown, 6:30 p.m.

27-29: Marlon Wayans - Bricktown Comedy Club, Various Times

Committee Reports

The POLICY COMMITTEE is working to understand how polling locations are decided, especially early polling locations. While early polling locations have been restored in North Tulsa, there is still conversation to be had around convenience and access, especially in historically underserved communities. The committee is hoping to bring someone from the county election board to the meetings to hear more insight.

The CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE is continuing to work on a Black Tulsa Guide with the digital version rolling out, ideally, at the top of the new year. A physical version will follow.

The EDUCATION COMMITTEE hosted the third annual LaVerne Ford Wimberly Black Educators Excellence Awards on October 27. It was an amazing night with Mayor Nichols, Dr. Wimberly, Councilwoman Hall-Harper, and TPS Superintendent Dr. Johnson speaking to the excellent work that our teachers do everyday. Winners of the awards are: Outstanding New Educator Award: Onaydi Zelaya, KIPP Tulsa University Prep High School; Trailblazer Award: Dr. Ebony Johnson, Tulsa Public Schools; Guiding Light Award: Traci Manuel, Tulsa Public Schools; and Excellence in Education Award: Ericka Ware, Tulsa Legacy Charter School. We congratulate these winners!

The HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION is diligently moving forward with digitizing the Human Rights Complaint Process to make it more accessible. Updates include: development of automated email responses, creation of a complaint reference number system, and establishment of a dedicated email address for discrimination-related complaints. The commission also recognizes the importance of language accessibility and are working to ensure that as many people can access the language of this form as possible.

History Corner

On November 1, 1945, John H. Johnson launched *Ebony* Magazine. Founded in Chicago for his Johnson Publishing Company, the monthly magazine sought to produce positive images of African Americans. It focused on entertainment, style, and culture.

Still in publication, the magazine’s iconic covers often features images and stories on prominent African American figures, including musicians, film stars, and politicians.

In 2021, *Ebony* moved to a digital format and can be found at ebony.com.

