



Human Relations Commission
Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 5:15 pm
Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams



Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at 5:16 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Ashley Jackson	Ward 2
Eric Howard	Ward 3
Cedric Smith, Chair	Ward 4
Dr. June Webb-Vignery	Ward 5

John Dalton - arrived 5:27 pm	Non-Voting Advisory Member
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Absent:

Staff Members Present:

Rick Guerra	City Clerk's Office
Stephanie Alvarez	City Clerk's Office

2. Approval of Minutes: meeting of November 13, 2024

No discussion held

No formal action taken

Carried over to the meeting of January 2025.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Smith briefly mentioned Iris Berry possibly joining the Advisory Board, while her application is reviewed as discussed at the previous meeting.

4. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events

Chair Smith opened discussion by noting he has reached out to Ms. Rebecca Hill from the OEOP department and is waiting on a response to see about her possibly attending a meeting.

5. Commissioners' Summary of Current Events

Commissioner Webb-Vignery mentioned Pima County Interfaith has received both from the Sheriff's Office and Tucson Police Department a favorable "ok" for the Parish ID, which is for the undocumented and to have all church members carry this. Commissioner Howard ensued in discussion mentioning he has been volunteering with a local nonprofit called Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE) which mobilizes under resourced people around social justice issues in Tucson and around Arizona. He continued by noting ACE has recently launched a campaign called Water Guardian and the goal is to preserve and protect our water supply. He discussed the background to this campaign stating it is about issues between the 1950s and 1970s where the City of Tucson knowingly served contaminated water to around 31,000 residents on the South Side of Tucson. Commissioner Howard noted there will be another campaign rally at Mission Manor Park January 11th from 10am to 12pm.

6. Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC) – Rocque Perez

Commissioner June Webb-Vignery opened item speaking on the background of the Metropolitan Education Commission, she noted in 1990 the City of Tucson and Pima County came with a resolution bringing together the MEC which was set up to be an advocacy group for education K through 20. She continued by noting she was the first executive Director for 27 years and the impact the Commission has with the Youth. Guest Speaker Rocque Perez, who is the current Executive Director, ensued in discussion and presented a slide show which included things such as Commission functions, 30th Teen Town Hall and FAFSA. Chairperson Smith, Commissioners Webb-Vignery and guest Berry had follow up questions regarding visiting State legislators, STEM and Trade/apprenticeships to which Mr. Perez fielded the questions and answered thoroughly.

7. Update from HRC Representative to LGBTQ

Commissioner Webb-Vignery stated at the previous meeting there were several people interested in becoming LGBTQ Commissioners.

8. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items discussed were, future guests such as the Marshalls, Chief Equity Officer attendance at next meeting, and Daniel Sullivan, researcher, possibly coming for February meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm