



Human Relations Commission
Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 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 5:17 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Cedric Smith, Chair	Ward 4
Ashley Jackson	Ward 2
Eric Howard	Ward 3
Dr. June Webb-Vignery	Ward 5
Josue Romero	Ward 6
Iris Berry	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Absent:

John Dalton	Non-Voting Advisory Member
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Staff Members Present:

Susana Zamora	City Clerk's Office
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2. Approval of Minutes: Meeting June 11, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Howard, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, to approve the Minutes of June 11, 2025.

Commissioner Romero arrived at 5:25 p.m.

3. Call to the Audience

No one spoke.

4. Update from HRC Representative to LGBTQ+

Commissioner Dr. Webb-Vignery mentioned that LGBTQ+ is not meeting this summer.

5. Follow up on updates from Council Member Lane's office.

Chairman Smith mentioned that he received an update from Gabriella at Ward 1 and that the request is being worked on to added to the Mayor and Council Study Session within the next two months. They are waiting on the City Attorney's office for input at the request of the Vice Mayor. The Chairman will send another follow-up email to check status.

Commission Howard mentioned that the Museum opening event has been reschedule from September to November 14, 2025. Hopefully, HRC will have something to celebrate if the Mayor and Council pass the TCE resolution.

6. Discussion regarding “Project Blue.”

Chairperson Smith mentioned that several meetings have taken place regarding Project Blue. The last meeting was a unanimous vote of no. Councilwoman Lee posted a letter saying that the council unanimously vote No to Project Blue. Some private companies are still developing orbital data centers that are not so reliant on water.

7. What’s new in Tucson/Pima County

Commissioner Howard mentioned that Daniel Sullivan, whom some of you have meet and who helped with the resolution for TCE, sent me an email about an event that is going to happen on September 4th and 5th. This event is from a former White House Environmental Justice Committee, where people can testify about community issues. Daniel mentioned that this is something maybe we can tune into. The deadline to register is August 19, and it is a national meeting.

8. Vacancy and Advisory Positions

Chairman Smith introduced Josue Romero as the new member of HRC.

Commissioner Romero introduced himself. He has been working with vulnerable and marginalized population since 2012/2013. He has worked at Emerge (Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse), has worked with people living with or have been affected by HIV, and with Homeless youth. Have been involve in the community supporting marginalized groups. He read about this commission and is looking forward to partnering and working alongside HRC.

Commissioner Howard asked Commissioner Romero how long he has lived in Tucson.

Commissioner Romero mentioned that he moved to Tucson in fall of 2010. Before that, he lived in North Carolina, born and raised. He planned to attend school here and move back to North Carolina, but he ended up staying here because he loves the town. He fell in love with the desert and the Tucson vibe.

9. Chairperson’s Summary of Current Events

Chairman Smith has no additional events now.

10. Commissioners’ Summary of Current Events

Commissioner Dr. Webb-Vignery highlighted her professional background is history, identifying herself as a historian. She expressed her concern regarding changes being made to the African American exhibit at the Smithsonian. She pointed out that the exhibit is removing key figures who played significant roles in the movement and events. Dr. Webb-Vignery emphasized that this issue is crucial

for our communities and for the future, and she wants to bring it to the forefront of the discussion.

Commissioner Jackson mentioned that she was bringing back to the commission some information on what she could find concerning the potential of denaturalizing naturalized citizens. She was able to speak with a Court Case Administrative supervisor. At this point, this has been only a rumor. She was able to verify that the Federal Courts are still holding naturalization ceremonies every month for those who have gone through the process to be naturalized. This is still not off the table, but right now, this is still a rumor.

11. Future Agenda Items

Chairman Smith mentioned that the only future agenda items is an update from Ward 1 regarding TCE; hopefully he will hear back something soon. He just received a reply from Gabriela with Ward 1. Per Gabriela this was added to the Mayor and Council Study Session Agenda for September 9, 2025.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.