



**Human Relations Commission**  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 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 5:19 PM. Those present and absent were:

#### Present:

Ashley Jackson	Ward 2
Eric Howard	Ward 3
Cedric Smith, Chair	Ward 4
Josue Romero	Ward 6
John Dalton	Non-Voting Advisory Member

#### Absent:

Belen Sisk	Ward 5
Iris Berry	Non-Voting Advisory Member

#### Staff Members and Others Present:

Rick Guerra	City Clerk's Office
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### 2. Approval of Minutes: meeting of January 14, 2026

It was moved by Chair Smith, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2026.

### 3. Call to the Audience

No one spoke.

### 4. Update from HRC Representative to LGBTQ+

Commissioner Romero said that at the LGBTQ+ meeting last night, the conversation was of the news that Tucson Pride was dissolving and cancelling its 2026 festival.

### 5. TCE / Resolution Letter Updates

Chair Smith stated he called Pima County Supervisor Andres Cano's office and left a message but has yet to receive a call back.

Commissioner Howard said two members of the subcommittee reached out to Cano personally because they have a personal relationship and shared that we are looking to have more conversation with them around the resolution and saying that this letter is coming from the Commission at some point.

## **6. Review of HRC Flyer**

Discussion has held regarding the HRC Flyer, with suggestions like adding the meeting dates, open to the public, a hyper-link, and adding a QR Code on the flyer.

It was moved by Chair Smith, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, to approve the HRC Flyer with edits.

## **7. What's New in Tucson / Pima County (Discussion Only)**

Commissioner Howard voiced the main headline in the news was the kidnaping of Nancy Guthrie.

Commissioner Romero shared a number of organizations, along with the Arizona Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, City of Tucson, and Pima County Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People held a listening session to hear testimony from people regarding this epidemic. Tucson has the fourth highest rate of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in the country, and the State of Arizona has the third highest rate of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

## **8. Vacancy and Advisory Positions**

Chair Smith said that we still have some positions open, so if you know someone that would possibly be interested in getting involved, please let them know, and have them complete the application to go through the process to get approved.

Support staff clarified that the vacancies are for two the Non-Voting Advisory Members, the Mayor's office, the Ward 1 office and a vacancy position for the LGBTQ+ Commission.

## **9. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events**

Chair Smith said he knew an individual who ran into a situation at the VA Hospital where his wife was admitted, he went to go check in on her and the VA would not let him talk to her. He said that five security officers approached him, so tried to leave the facility, but they ended up getting very aggressive to where they started choking him, kneeling him, things along those lines, and then eventually they took him up to Phoenix, and before they went through the gate, they got a call from the Attorney General telling them to turn around and bring him back to Tucson and not file charges, but just give him two tickets. One ticket was for disorderly conduct, and the second ticket was for simple aggression or something along those lines, and he is currently trying to find lawyers for representation.

## **10. Commissioner's Summary of Current Events**

Commissioner Dalton voiced he wanted to piggyback off of Commissioner Howards comment regarding the kidnaping of Nancy Guthrie and how this is major news happening in the community worth mentioning.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Romero requested Missing and Murdered Indigenous People be placed on a future Agenda.

Commissioner Howard requested TCE Resolution Letter Updates be placed/kept on a future Agenda.

**12. Appointment of new Chair and Vice Chair**

A discussion was held on who might be interested in being appointed for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.

It was moved by Chair Smith, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, to appoint Commissioner Howard as Chair.

It was moved by Chair Smith, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, to appoint Commissioner Jackson as Vice Chair.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.