



Human Relations Commission
Wednesday, March 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 Howard at 5:17 PM. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Ashley Jackson, Vice Chair	Ward 2
Eric Howard, Chair	Ward 3
Belen Sisk	Ward 5
Josue Romero (arrived at 5:38pm)	Ward 6
Iris Berry	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Absent:

Cedric Smith	Ward 4
John Dalton	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Staff Members and Others Present:

Abraham Foulkes	City Clerk's Office
Tracy McAfee	City Clerk's Office

2. Approval of Minutes: meeting of February 11, 2026

Chair Howard suggested shortening the first sentence under Item 7 of the Minutes.

It was moved by Vice Chair Jackson, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 3 to 0, to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2026.

3. Call to the Audience

No one from the public was present to speak.

4. Update from HRC Representative to LGBTQ+

No updates were given at this time.

5. TCE / Resolution Letter Updates

(Commissioner Romero arrived at 5:38pm)

Chair Howard summarized the conversations that he had with subcommittee members around the work of the TCE letter. He highlighted productive engagement with the community and the Pima County Health Department with ongoing dialogue among them. He also mentioned the importance of continuing conversations about solutions that align with the City's goals and values, noting that the overall progress is positive.

Vice Chair Jackson asked for clarification that the letter has served its primary purpose.

Chair Howard stated that he had not yet had a straight answer from Andres Cano's office regarding the letter's status, however his staff are fully aware of it.

Support staff provided an update status that Mayor Regina Romero had given recommendation for the letter to be sent to Andres Cano's office. Therefore, the Commission had the option of forwarding the letter themselves provided they let support staff know they intend to do so.

Vice Chair Jackson voiced support for the option of sending the letter to Cano's letter.

6. Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Task Force Update and Next Steps

Chair Howard shared that Commissioner Romero had drafted a letter for the Commission to review.

Commissioner Romero joined the meeting at 5:28 PM.

Chair Howard proceeded to share his screen to show the letter to the Commission.

Commissioner Romero explained his intent with the letter is to request an update on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Task Force that was established by the City in 2023. He noted that there had not been a significant update made to the community.

The Commission commenced discussion and review of the letter. Comments were made by Chair Howard, Vice Chair Jackson, and Commissioner Sisk.

It was moved by Chair Howard, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4-0, to approve the letter as is, with pending letterhead edit.

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

Chair Howard opened the floor for discussion among the commissioners.

Iris Berry left the meeting at 5:52 PM.

Commissioner Romero shared the status of Pride events throughout Tucson over the past couple of weekends and spoke positively of the community.

Chair Howard spoke about the policies passed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors that restricted federal immigration enforcement on County properties without a judicial warrant. He highlighted that a similar policy was passed by City of Tucson officials.

Vice Chair Jackson shared that parents and teachers were requesting the Tucson Unified School District Board to implement more training in regard to the protection of children from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Chair Howard asked if the training was provided by a government entity or a non-profit.

Vice Chair Jackson replied that she was not entirely sure, citing a news article that she had seen on the topic.

8. Vacancy and Advisory Positions

Chair Howard asked support staff to summarize the remaining vacancies on the Commission.

Support staff provided the information on the vacancies, consisting of two openings for non-voting advisory members, one opening for Mayor, one opening for representative to the LGBTQ+ Commission, and one member opening for Ward 1.

Chair Howard asked if John Dalton (who was not present) would be eligible to be appointed as a voting member, to which support staff confirmed he is.

Chair Howard asked the Commission if there was anybody in mind for the position of representative to the LGBTQ+ Commission.

Commissioner Romero mentioned that the LGBTQ+ Commission is exploring options on their end and figuring out the logistics for a representative.

9. Chairperson's and Commissioner's Summary of Current Events

Chair Howard asked the Commissioners if they had any updates.

Commissioner Romero highlighted that non-profit organizations supporting marginalized communities are having discussions on how to better support each other due to recent federal shifts in funding priorities.

Chair Howard mentioned the core intents of the TCE Resolution that included wider health care access. He offered support for the non-profit organizations and any possible opportunities for the Commission to continue dialogue.

Commissioner Romero suggested the possibility of reaching out to organizations to better coordinate shared goals.

Chair Howard highlighted past collaborations that resulted in the passing of the TCE Resolution.

Commissioner Sisk shared her experience in a non-profit that is facing funding difficulties. She invited the Commission to an upcoming community event.

Vice Chair Jackson asked whether Pima County has a commission of their own that is analogous to the HRC.

Chair Howard looked on Pima County's website and could not find a similar commission at this time. Support staff would investigate the matter as well.

10. Future Agenda Items

Chair Howard suggested keeping the TCE Resolution Letter and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women items on the agenda.

Chair Howard asked support staff about the status of City funds to the Commission.

Support staff provided an update regarding the Treasurer position, indicating that the City has no funds available to the Commission.

Chair Howard asked whether the Commission could accept donations from private or non-profit entities.

Support staff indicated that it would require further investigation before proceeding.

Chair Howard asked to agendaize discussion about a Pima County analogous commission, unless there was not one that existed to warrant discussion.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.