

City of Tucson Human Relations Commission 2025 Annual Report

Mission and 2025 Focus

In 2025, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) remained focused on its core mission: promoting equity, strengthening community relationships, and advising the Mayor and Council on issues affecting fairness and inclusion in Tucson. This year, we made meaningful progress through dialogue, community engagement, and collaborative leadership.

Environmental Justice and Community Advocacy

One of our most significant areas of focus in 2025 was environmental justice. Throughout the year, the Commission hosted presentations from community experts, researchers, and advocates to better understand the historical and ongoing impacts of the TCE groundwater contamination. These conversations led to the development of a HRC resolution supporting community-led solutions, increased transparency, and continued investment in clean water and environmental accountability. The Commission worked collaboratively with community partners, including researchers at the U of A and local organizations, and sought public input to strengthen this effort.

City Leadership Engagement and Budget Process

The Commission also prioritized strengthening relationships with City leadership. In May, we met with City staff to better understand the City's budget process and explore how equity considerations can be incorporated into funding decisions. This discussion provided valuable insight into how resources are allocated and how the Commission can offer meaningful input moving forward.

Recruitment, Outreach, and Commission Development

Recruitment and outreach were another key focus in 2025. The Commission identified vacancies and worked to expand awareness of the HRC across Tucson. We discussed new recruitment strategies, including community events, partnerships with local organizations, and outreach to younger leaders. These efforts resulted in the appointment of a new commissioner and renewed momentum to build a diverse and representative body that reflects Tucson's communities.

Monitoring Emerging Community Concerns

Throughout the year, commissioners also monitored emerging community concerns, including immigration-related fears, access to identification resources, water sustainability, and the potential environmental impacts of future development projects. These discussions reflect the Commission's role as a listening body — one that brings forward community concerns and fosters dialogue grounded in respect and understanding.

Community Partnerships and Collaborative Relationships

In addition to policy discussions, the Commission strengthened relationships with community groups, including LGBTQ+ advocates and local organizations serving vulnerable populations. These partnerships help ensure that a wide range of voices inform our work.

Reflections on 2025 Progress

As Chairperson, I am proud of the Commission's commitment to thoughtful, respectful dialogue and meaningful action. Our work this year demonstrated that progress often begins with listening, learning, and building trust. We remain committed to serving as a bridge between the community and City leadership.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Human Relations Commission will continue advancing equity, strengthening community engagement, and supporting policies that promote fairness and inclusion for all Tucson residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Howard

Chairperson, Human Relations Commission