



Human Relations Commission
Wednesday, April 8, 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 5:18 PM. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Ashley Jackson, Vice Chair	Ward 2
Eric Howard, Chair	Ward 3
Belen Sisk	Ward 5
Josue Romero (joined at 5:21 PM)	Ward 6
John Dalton	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Absent:

Cedric Smith	Ward 4
Iris Berry	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Staff Members and Others Present:

Abraham Foulkes	City Clerk's Office
Rick Guerra	City Clerk's Office

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

(Commissioner Romero joined during this item at 5:21 PM)

Chair Howard asked the Commission if there were comments or questions regarding the Minutes.

Vice Chair Jackson took a moment to briefly review the Minutes and said they looked good.

It was moved by Vice Chair Jackson, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, to approve the Minutes of March 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

Chair Howard gave an update on the progress of his conversations with the subcommittee staff that has been coordinating with Andrés Cano's office. He explained that a meeting with Cano's office was not necessary since they have already been doing much of the work that the Committee's letter requested. Chair Howard said that he would send an email to their staff to close the loop on the discussion.

Chair Howard suggested inviting a member of the subcommittee to next month's HRC meeting and having them provide an update on their work.

Vice Chair Jackson voiced her agreement with Chair Howard's suggestion.

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

Commissioner Romero shared that he spoke with the Ward 6 office and confirmed that they had received the letter from the Committee. No further action had yet been taken.

Chair Howard asked if there was anything else the Committee could do to further support Commissioner Romero.

Commissioner Romero mentioned that there would be a task force meeting in the coming weeks and he planned on attending to gather more information.

7. HRC Potential Response to César Chávez Holiday

Commissioner Romero began by summarizing the recent controversy surrounding the allegations against César Chávez and the public response surrounding it. He highlighted that the Mayor and Council had discussed a coalition that the Committee could potentially be a part of to provide input. Commissioner Romero shared that the coalition would allow for an open dialogue with the community at large.

Chair Howard asked questions such as who would be part of the coalition and what form it would take. He opened the floor for other Commissioners to share their thoughts on the subject.

Vice Chair Jackson asked for clarification on Commissioner Romero's updates regarding the coalition.

Commissioner Romero confirmed that the coalition was in the process of being formed, focusing on next-generation leaders.

Vice Chair Jackson suggested that a member of the HRC could join the coalition to keep the Committee informed and updated on their work.

Commissioner Romero shared that it could be an opportunity for the HRC to be involved and support the Mayor and Council. He voiced agreement in waiting to see how the coalition forms.

Chair Howard agreed to wait and see what the Committee's role would be in the coalition. He asked the Commissioners if anybody was interested in keeping a close eye on the matter and report back to the Committee with any potential updates.

Commissioner Sisk voiced willingness to participate in the coalition.

Chair Howard discussed the possibility of drafting a letter as part of a response.

Commissioner Romero voiced support in drafting a letter that includes the Committee's willingness to participate and support the coalition.

Chair Howard suggested the letter be drafted sometime before the next meeting.

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

Commissioner Sisk mentioned a recent incident that occurred at a Walgreens involving ICE agents using excessive force on protestors.

9. Review and Approval of the 2025 HRC Annual Report

Chair Howard highlighted the contents and intent behind the Annual Report.

Vice Chair Jackson spoke positively about the report and showed strong support.

Commissioner Romero was also supportive and echoed the positive sentiment.

Chair Howard asked support staff questions about where the report would be available. Support staff confirmed that the report would be publicly available on the website.

It was moved by Vice Chair Jackson, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, to approve the 2025 HRC Annual Report.

Chair Howard expressed desire to forward the Annual Report to the Mayor and Council.

10. Vacancy and Advisory Positions

Commissioner Romero shared that the LGBTQ+ Commission would be meeting next week to discuss their liaison to the HRC.

Support staff explained the process and procedure of appointing representatives between the HRC and the LGBTQ+ Commission.

Commissioner Romero shared that the LGBTQ+ Commission only meets as needed. He highlighted the ongoing discussion regarding that commission's future.

Support staff highlighted the remaining vacancies on the Commission including the Mayor's office, Ward 1, and the HRC representative to the LGBTQ+ Commission.

Chair Howard asked support staff for an update on finding an analogous commission to the HRC from Pima County. Support staff highlighted that no fully analogous commission existed.

Chair Howard expressed desire to have a staff contact at Pima County to coordinate the Commission's efforts with their Boards and Commissions division.

John Dalton shared that at one point in time the HRC was a joint commission between the City and Pima County.

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

Commissioner Romero shared that SNAP benefits were at risk of being cut, affecting many vulnerable communities in Tucson.

Chair Howard asked if the City was providing any bridge funding or if it was strictly a federal issue. Commissioner Romero responded that it was largely federal funding at risk.

12. Future Agenda Items

Chair Howard shared that there will likely be a guest speaker for Item 5 at the next meeting. He added that another item could potentially be agendaized regarding further contact with Pima County's Boards and Commissions division.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.