



Human Relations Commission
Thursday, May 21, 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	Ward 2
Eric Howard, Chair	Ward 3
Belen Sisk (arrived 5:20 pm / departed 6:25 pm)	Ward 5
Josue Romero	Ward 6
John Dalton	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Absent:

Cedric Smith	Ward 4
Iris Berry	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Staff Members and Others Present:

Daniel Sullivan	Guest Speaker
Erna Rosen	Guest Speaker
Abraham Foulkes	City Clerk's Office
Rick Guerra	City Clerk's Office

2. Approval of Minutes: meeting of April 8, 2026

It was moved by Chair Howard, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 3 to 0, to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2026.

3. Call to the Audience

No one from the public spoke.

(Commissioner Sisk arrived at 5:20 pm)

4. TCE / Resolution Updates

Chair Howard introduced guest speaker Daniel Sullivan and invited him to the meeting to give a presentation update on their work. He continued briefly explaining the history behind the impact of TCE on the community and the work done to advocate for the health and well-being of those negatively affected. Chair Howard proceeded to give the floor to Daniel Sullivan.

Daniel Sullivan began his presentation describing the history and consequences of the water contamination that has affected the southside community. He went over the overall timeline of the incident and highlighted the actions that were taken by the HRC and the Mayor and Council.

Supportive comments were made by John Dalton, Vice Chair Jackson, and Chair Howard.

5. Update from HRC Representative to LGBTQ+

Commissioner Romero provided updates on the search for a member of the LGBTQ+ Commission to attend meetings for the HRC. He mentioned that one of his colleagues from that commission, Erna Rosen, was present and welcomed her into the meeting space.

Commissioner Romero stated that he was working with the Mayor's office on a proclamation for Pride Month.

Erna Rosen introduced herself to the Commission. She proceeded to give updates on the LGBTQ+ Commission's efforts to reach out to organizations in regards to funding.

Chair Howard asked Commissioner Romero if he was seeking any action the Commission could take.

Commissioner Romero said that the only pending action was having an HRC commissioner attend LGBTQ+ meetings. He also gave updates on the LGBTQ+ Commission's actions regarding their outreach and impact in the community.

Chair Howard asked Commissioner Romero what the objective of the proclamation for Pride Month is. Commissioner Romero explained its purpose and a brief overview of its history.

6. Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Update

Commissioner Romero gave an update on the meetings and community events he had attended in relation to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Task Force. He mentioned the collaboration and discussion between different agencies and organizations throughout Pima County and the City of Tucson. Commissioner Romero also highlighted his questions about the role of TPD and the necessary training needed.

Chair Howard asked for clarification regarding Commissioner Romero's view on the comments made during those meetings. Commissioner Romero summarized the different responses received by individuals such as the Tucson Police Chief. He also mentioned his intention to continue discussion with his Council member.

Chair Howard asked what the Commission could do to further support Commissioner Romero and his efforts. Commissioner Romero suggested that each Commissioner could reach out and have dialogue with their respective Council members.

John Dalton voiced agreement with the strategy.

(Commissioner Sisk departed at 6:25 pm)

7. HRC Letter Regarding Cesar Chavez Holiday

Vice Chair Jackson said that she had reviewed the letter and had a couple of suggestions.

Chair Howard suggested moving forward and potentially revisiting the item later to allow sufficient input from Commissioner Sisk, who authored the letter.

8. HRC and Pima County Partnership Update

Chair Howard asked support staff if there were any updates regarding a partnership between the HRC and Pima County.

Support staff suggested reaching out to their respective Council members as they would be equipped to seek out a partnership between the City and County.

Vice Chair Jackson also offered to reach out to her Council member to introduce the dialogue.

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

No discussion was held.

10. Vacancy and Advisory Positions

Support staff clarified the process of having a representative of the LGBTQ+ Commission to the HRC and vice versa.

Chair Howard asked regarding the status of Commissioner Smith. Support staff clarified his status and read off the current vacancies of the Commission.

John Dalton indicated his term was set to expire soon. Support staff mentioned that he was eligible to join as a full voting member if he wanted.

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

Chair Howard brought up the Pima County Justice for All Ballot Initiative. He mentioned it would allow Pima County residents facing detention or deportation access to a public defender. He encouraged the Commission to research it and add their signature to get it on the ballot.

Vice Chair Jackson voiced support and thanked Chair Howard for bringing it to the Commission's attention.

12. Future Agenda Items

Chair Howard suggested postponing Item 7 to the next meeting and moving it up.

Commissioner Romero said that there is still time to process the letter if it is moved to next month's meeting.

John Dalton mentioned that TPD released their call to service data. He suggested adding it to a future meeting to discuss the data.

Chair Howard agreed and suggested to put it on next month's agenda.

Chair Howard suggested eliminating Item 9 from future agendas.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.