Human Relations Commission
Wednesday, July 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	Ward 2
Eric Howard, Chair	Ward 3
Belen Sisk	Ward 5
John Dalton	Non-Voting Advisory Member

Absent:

Josue Romero	Ward 6
Iris Berry	Non-Voting Advisory Member
Cedric Smith	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 May 21, 2026

Chair Howard recommended a minor edit to the Minutes to accurately reflect the reasoning behind an action.

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 May 21, 2026.

3. Call to the Audience

A member of the audience briefly spoke.

4. Appointment of Cedric Smith as Non-Voting Advisory Member

Item was taken out of order and moved between Item 10 and Item 11.

5. **HRC Letter Regarding Cesar Chavez Holiday (Discussion and Possible Action)**

Chair Howard thanked Commissioner Sisk for drafting the letter. He gave an overview of the objective of the letter for the City to include the HRC in discussions regarding the removal of Cesar Chavez installations.

Commissioner Sisk thanked the Commission for the opportunity and was appreciative of feedback.

Chair Howard shared his screen to showcase the draft letter. He offered his suggestions on the language and the formatting.

John Dalton chimed in and offered his input on some of the language and wording.

Vice Chair Jackson also shared her insight on the draft.

The Commission voiced their support and appreciation for Commissioner Sisk's contribution.

It was moved by Chair Howard, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 3 to 0, to approve the letter with the suggested edits.

6. **TCE Resolution Updates**

Chair Howard gave an update on his conversations with Daniel Sullivan that included coordination with County partners in addition to the Mayor and Council. He said that the process involved submitting a memo through the proper channels in the County to form the basis for formal communication to the City. Chair Howard said it would be good to continue communications, including with his Council member.

Vice Chair Jackson stated that she feels they are headed in the right direction, allowing the collaboration with the County to go through the chain of command. She agreed with keeping the Council member updated.

John Dalton voiced agreement with the process to ensure everything is in the right place.

7. **Update from HRC Representative to LGBTQ+**

Item was skipped over.

8. **Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Update**

Item was skipped over.

9. **HRC and Pima County Partnership Update**

Chair Howard stated that he had been in touch with his Council member and his staff and would reach out further.

Vice Chair Jackson mentioned that she had also been in contact with her Council member and was able to schedule a meeting with him to discuss the matter further.

Chair Howard asked Vice Chair Jackson if there was anything else that could be done to support her.

Vice Chair Jackson recommended continuing to keep in contact and making the case for greater collaboration between the City and County.

Chair Howard and Vice Chair Jackson highlighted the areas in which the City and County already collaborate.

Commissioner Sisk mentioned the broader impact on the County with issues like data centers and water contamination.

10. Tucson Police Department Data Review (Discussion)

Chair Howard expressed interest in gathering more information regarding the TPD data and asked John Dalton for an update on his research.

John Dalton mentioned he would continue searching for relevant information, including demographics.

Chair Howard and John Dalton discussed looking at the data and John Dalton mentioned a time when he went to review data at TPD in-person.

*** 4. Appointment of Cedric Smith as Non-Voting Advisory Member**

It was moved by Vice Chair Jackson, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 3 to 0, to appoint Cedric Smith as a non-voting advisory member.

Chair Howard asked John Dalton for clarification on term limits for non-voting advisory members. John Dalton responded that it was 2 years.

11. Vacancy and Advisory Positions

Chair Howard mentioned that he had reached out to the Mayor's Office regarding appointing John Dalton as a member.

John Dalton stated he would resubmit the online application for appointment.

Vice Chair Jackson asked about the logistics of commissioners representing their wards, pointing out that she currently represents a ward she does not live in.

John Dalton responded that their bylaws state that they are fully able to do so, being one of the few commissions that allows it.

Support staff highlighted the current vacancies of the Mayor's position, Ward 1 and Ward 4.

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

Commissioner Sisk mentioned the development of data centers and wanting to stay informed on the topic due to its impact on tribal lands and low-income areas.

13. Future Agenda Items

Chair Howard suggested removing Item 4 and adjusting the name of Item 5 for the next meeting.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.