



**Human Relations Commission**  
Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 5:15 PM  
Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams



**Legal Action Report**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Howard at 5:21 PM. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Ashley Jackson     | Ward 2 |
| Eric Howard, Chair | Ward 3 |
| Josue Romero       | Ward 6 |

**Absent:**

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Belen Sisk   | Ward 5                     |
| Iris Berry   | Non-Voting Advisory Member |
| John Dalton  | Non-Voting Advisory Member |
| Cedric Smith | Non-Voting Advisory Member |

**Staff Members and Others Present:**

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| April Ignacio   | Guest Speaker       |
| Abraham Foulkes | City Clerk's Office |
| Rick Guerra     | City Clerk's Office |

**2. Approval of Minutes: meetings of June 10, 2026 & July 8, 2026**

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 June 10, 2026 and July 8, 2026.

**3. Call to the Audience**

No one from the audience spoke.

**4. HRC Letter Regarding Cesar Chavez Holiday Update**

*\* This item was skipped over and continued after Item 11. \**

**5. TCE Resolution Updates**

Chair Howard gave an update on his meeting with his Council member. They had discussed the TCE Resolution and how public health is largely handled by Pima County. He gave insight on the communication between the City and the County and how the City had provided temporary funding in the past. Chair Howard also highlighted Daniel Sullivan's

contributions to the conversation and how the County Board of Supervisors would need to communicate with Mayor and Council for further progress.

## **6. Update from HRC Representative to LGBTQ+**

Commissioner Romero stated that he did not have an update at this time.

## **7. Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Update**

Chair Howard welcomed and introduced the Commission to guest speaker April Ignacio.

Commissioner Romero shared his appreciation to April for joining today.

April Ignacio began by sharing a letter drafted by the Pascua Yaqui tribes. She presented updates from a meeting hosted by the tribe regarding the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIW/MMIP). She highlighted a perceived lack of policy changes and systemic accountability within the Tucson Police Department and Pima County Sheriff's Department, contrasting them with proactive tribal jurisdictions. She continued outlining efforts by grassroots organizations to coordinate a self-accountability task force addressing the crisis in collaboration with local jurisdictions. April emphasized that despite tribal advancements and intergovernmental agreements, tangible action is delayed, prompting demands for immediate policy reform rather than rhetoric.

Commissioner Romero noted that despite the task force being established in 2023, there remain ongoing concerns regarding elected officials' engagement and follow-through. He also observed that frequent staff rotations and rigorous administrative requirements have created challenges for community advocates seeking consistent attention on this critical issue.

Chair Howard acknowledged the frustrations of the community and highlighted a previous letter sent out by the Commission that touched upon some of the points mentioned.

Commissioner Romero acknowledged that the letter had been received by the Mayor and Council but had yet to see a meaningful response or updates.

Chair Howard and Commissioner Romero agreed to continue following up on the matter with their respective Council members.

## **8. HRC and Pima County Partnership Update**

Chair Howard asked Vice Chair Jackson for an update.

Vice Chair Jackson shared that she had met with her Council member and that they were interested in the idea of a joint commission. Part of the task ahead involved finding a suitable commission on the Pima County side that is willing to be part of the joint-commission.

Chair Howard and Vice Chair Jackson discussed the process of drafting a letter to the Council member. Chair Howard asked Commissioner Romero if he wanted to include his Council member as well.

Commissioner Romero stated that he would also bring the matter up to his Council member.

Chair Howard thanked Vice Chair Jackson for the update.

**9. Tucson Police Department Data Review (Discussion)**

Chair Howard mentioned that the police department's demographic data may be useful in regard to the update regarding the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women crisis. He said there would likely be further updates to share when John Dalton is available.

**10. Vacancy and Advisory Positions**

Chair Howard asked for clarification regarding current vacancies on the Commission.

Support staff clarified the open positions for the Mayor, Ward 4, and a single non-voting advisory position.

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

Commissioner Romero expressed deep concern over the nationwide escalation of racial violence, referencing the tragic loss of Black youth and the persistence of systemic biases within the legal system, media, and everyday society. He also highlighted the compounding impact of community violence on domestic abuse survivors and marginalized groups, noting that resources for these communities are increasingly limited.

**\* 4. HRC Letter Regarding Cesar Chavez Holiday Update**

(Item continued from earlier.)

Commissioner Romero proposed collaborating with the Public Art and Community Design Committee to support local mural initiatives regarding the aftermath of the Cesar Chavez controversy.

The Commission agreed to pause the letter until Commissioner Sisk could be present.

Chair Howard offered to contact the committee chair to explore partnership opportunities before providing an update at the next meeting.

**12. Future Agenda Items**

Chair Howard suggested no changes to future agenda items at this time.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.