



“What Do You Think” Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women? May 4, 2007

On May 4, [Monty McElroy](#) and [Martha Schultz](#) met with the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose of this Commission to promote cooperation between the City and private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in conducting programs that aid women.

Here’s what they had to say.

What does Tulsa most need to achieve?

1. More dog parks
2. Make it easier and more economical to travel to and from Tulsa
3. More dialogue on the subjects of:
 - a. Race relations
 - b. Crime
 - c. Gangs
 - d. Re-entry into society by persons formerly incarcerated, particularly women
4. Bring people together with an “idea” or concept
 - a. We need something in Tulsa to bring people - socially – to the city, and to City-wide events
5. More stores in west and north Tulsa
6. Keep our kids/young adults in Tulsa
7. Need more collaboration between and among groups in Tulsa
8. Need higher salaries to keep kids here after college
 - a. Better salaries to keep workforce in Tulsa. Specific examples include:
 - i. Attorneys
 - ii. School teachers
9. Tulsa was a small community

- a. Now it has grown
 - b. Some want growth and others don't
10. Cultivate openness and acceptance
 11. Attract artists and other creative people
 12. Need a better education system
 13. Mass transit – critical need for the present and future
 14. Infrastructure maintenance
 15. Convenience and accessibility of services
 16. Keep as a goal: “Greater Tulsa”
 - a. NORTH – SOUTH – EAST – WEST
 - b. Foster unity based on ideas
 17. More services north and west
 18. Embrace diversity in all people:
 - a. Racial
 - b. Gender
 - c. Ethnic and cultural
 - d. Economic
 19. More constructive events and activities to reduce crime
 - a. Draw kids to recreation centers
 - b. Libraries
 20. Open parks and recreation centers in North Tulsa

What are Tulsa's most valuable or important assets?

21. Young people
 - a. We need to cultivate leaders
22. Undeveloped land in North Tulsa
23. Talented people
 - a. All people in Tulsa are assets
 - b. They are generous, eager to help
24. Interactive government and leadership is a plus
25. More river development
26. Cost of living
27. Philanthropic citizens
28. Higher education
 - a. Keeps graduates in Tulsa
 - b. Opportunity to collaborate with public schools

What are Tulsa's most critical issues, problems, or concerns?

29. Concept – North Tulsa has nothing/very little in terms of necessary services, new development
 - a. Underlying problems
 - i. Race and crime
 - ii. People afraid to go to North Tulsa
 - iii. Need more people to come into North Tulsa to get economic engine running
 - b. Address underlying things in Tulsa
 - i. Physical qualities
 - ii. Religious/faith-based population
 - iii. Mental health
 - c. Bring all of Tulsa together
 - i. Start with “Greater Tulsa”
 - d. Race problem
 - i. It’s not “us against them”
 - ii. Very important to be in dialogue to move ahead
 - iii. Segregated
 1. Physical segregation
 2. “Invisible” communities such as religious minorities, gender-related minorities that must live below the radar and don’t feel connected with other sectors of the community
30. Cost of housing is lower than other parts of the country, but everything else is costs the same
31. Too much fighting in this city
32. Media
 - a. Only one mainstream newspaper in Tulsa restricts free flow of information
 - b. 6 Hispanic newspapers in Tulsa
33. Mass transit needs to be addressed
34. Incarceration of women in Oklahoma is highest in country
 - a. Reasons for this should be addressed
 - b. Re-entry of female ex-convicts to greater society needs more attention
35. Mental health in the community
 - a. Indicates the existence of contributing, negative factors below the surface
 - b. This results in multiple social and community issues