



Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting | October 20, 2025 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Casey Bakhsh, Whitney Cipolla, Dezeray Edwards, Drew France, Anthony Meadows, Katie Eller Murray, Parisa Pilehvar, Joyce Roberts, Dave Walker

Commissioners Absent: Ana Barros, Larissa McNeil, Amanda Peregrina, Tamecca Rogers, Joshua Starks, Andrea Walker

I. **Call to Order**

- a. Vice Chair France called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

II. **Compassionate Tulsa Award, Presented to Terry Berg**

- a. Dr. Gary Peluso presented the Compassionate Tulsa Award to Terry Berg.
- b. Commissioners Roberts and Eller Murray arrived at 3:33 pm.
- c. Vice Chair France made a pitch for folks to nominate individuals for the Compassionate Tulsa Award. The nomination form is on Compassionate Tulsa's website.

III. **Approve Meeting Minutes**

- a. Vice Chair France entertained a motion to approve the September meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Dave Walker made a motion, Commissioner Meadows seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, September meeting minutes approved.

IV. **Vice Chair Report**

- a. Update: Tulsa Community Foundation Account
 - i. Vice Chair France shared that Tulsa Community Foundation's (TCF) newer policies make it difficult for a small organization like HRC to start and continue holding an account. Makes sense that TCF has implemented this; however, doesn't make sense for HRC with the limited resources the commission plans to oversee.
- b. Call for Compassionate Tulsa Nominations – covered previously

V. **Committee Updates Aligned with 2025 HRC Goals**

- a. Vice Chair France: Improve access to the City of Tulsa Department of Resilience and Equity's resources
 - i. Reminded commissioners that some of the human rights complaints filing process is outdated, there is an opportunity to modernize and make the process more accessible.
 - ii. La Kendra provided an update via email that she and Dion'trae recent met with the City of Tulsa's IT department to discuss building out a secure platform for human rights complaints. The goal is to create a platform that allows users to



submit discrimination complaint forms with an electronic signature, while also providing internal functionality such as reporting and tracking capabilities. Both departments have a clear understanding of objectives, expectations, and approaches available to develop the system. There is momentum within the City to consider updates.

- iii. One opportunity is to strike the reference to the City Clerk in the Human Rights Ordinance, as it is not necessary for the Clerk to be the first step of receiving complaints.
- iv. Commissioner Eller Murray suggested talking to cities of similar size, Vice Chair France noted that Lexi created such a list. These cities prove that an online complaint filing system can work.
 - 1. Lexi shared that La Kendra plans to connect with those other cities, could be an opportunity for commissioners to support.
- v. Commissioner Edwards: How might 311 be utilized, since it is already an avenue to receive complaints?
 - 1. Lexi shared that 311 currently can do an initial intake for Tulsans who call in, and to complete the complaint filing the paper process must be followed.
 - 2. Vice Chair France added that there are many logistical considerations, including confidentiality and security.
- b. Commissioner Pilehvar: Increase diverse representation and equitable recruitment practices across all City of Tulsa ABCs
 - i. Reminded commissioners that she received self-disclosed demographic data for members of all ABCs.
 - ii. Question about collaborating with City Auditor's office given the current ABC audit, Lexi shared that she can't speak for Nathan or Mike but she's sure they would be open to conversation.
 - iii. Commissioner Edwards shared that she received positive feedback from City Councilors when she met with them and spoke about these two goals during her re-appointment to HRC.

VI. Committee, Liaison, and Title V Commissions Calls for Action

- a. Fair Housing Committee: Veterans Fair Housing Summit
 - i. Commissioner Bakhsh shared about the upcoming Fair Housing Summit. Reminded HRC that last year the summit was focused on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, this year it's focused on veterans. Selected the focus community based on La Kendra's fair housing knowledge as well as other sources.
 - ii. Commissioners received a flyer.
 - iii. Already have 35 folks registered, registration isn't required but is helpful.
 - iv. Encourage commissioners to attend and help spread the word.

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Black Educator Excellence Awards Ceremony: October 28 at 6pm in City Council Chambers, hosted by the Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission



- b. Expungement Expo: November 1 from 10 – 2 at 36th Street Event Center
- c. Mayor's Community Conversations
 - i. October 21 at Tulsa Tech Lemley Memorial Campus: Children, Youth, and Family Outcomes
 - ii. October 27 at Herman and Kate Kaiser YMCA: Homelessness and Housing
 - iii. October 30 at North Tulsa Dream Center: Neighborhood Conditions/Vitality
 - iv. All from 5:30 – 7 pm
- d. Humanitarian of the Year Award Ceremony: December 11 at 6pm

X. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair France entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Cipolla made a motion, Commissioner Eller Murray seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 9
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.