



## **Tulsa Women's Commission**

Regular Meeting | January 9, 2026 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 411

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Toneille Bent, Premadonna Braddick, Susan Crenshaw, Dezeray Edwards, Ashleigh Frohrip, Betsy Jackson, Charisa Jacobs, Laura Latta, Meg Myers Morgan, Kate Neary, Maria Carlota Palacios

Commissioners Absent: Marcia Bruno-Todd, Mary Quinn Cooper, Deidra Kirtley

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Chairwoman Latta called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairwoman Latta entertained a motion to approve the November meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Palacios made a motion, Commissioner Myers Morgan seconded.
    1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
      - a. Commissioners Jacobs and Bent were not yet present.
  - ii. Motion carried, November meeting minutes approved.

#### **III. Presentation from Amber Guipptons, Director of the Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth at City of Tulsa**

- a. The City of Tulsa's Office of Financial Empowerment focuses on city-led, community-driven initiatives that focus on financial empowerment, wealth building, access to banking, and legacy and asset protection.
- b. Initiatives: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Bank On, Financial Empowerment Center (FEC)
  - i. Bank On: Accounts that provide safe, low-cost products such as no overdraft fees or low opening fees. There are 13 certified accounts with financial institutions available in the Tulsa area.
- c. FEC services are free of charge for anyone living and working in Tulsa. There are two centers and eight co-locations.
- d. FEC achievements:
  - i. 335 clients increased credit scores by 35+ points
  - ii. 208 clients have increased their emergency savings
  - iii. \$3,351,869 non-mortgage debt reduced
- e. 70% of FEC clients identify as female, 80% make \$45,999 or less annually.
- f. Integration with Municipal Court: An on-site councilor provides services to support those caught up in the judicial cycle of poverty. Clients can receive up to \$250 of fines/fees



waived after completing three FEC sessions, plus \$100 for each subsequent session up to full waiver of fees. As of 12/2025, this program has resulted in \$67,383 fines forgiven. Tulsa is one of less than ten cities with this type of service

- g. Legacy Planning services include HIPPA, power of attorney, living will, and last will and testament
  - i. Commissioner Edwards: Do these services include trusts? Amber: Oklahoma has a transfer on death deed, working on getting access to this for FEC clients.
- h. Chairwoman Latta noted the success of students who are referred to the FEC.
- i. Commissioner Palacios asked about funding. Amber shared that there is a diverse portfolio of funding sources, including ARPA, banks, and philanthropy.
- j. Commissioner Palacios asked about folks giving presentations on financial education. Amber: Banking institutions will do financial literacy workshops through Bank On.

**IV. 2025 Units of Inquiry: Debrief and Vote to Approve Report**

- a. Chairwoman Latta reviewed the three units of inquiry summary documents.
- b. Illuminated themes from each unit and wholistically.
  - i. Unit 1: Economic Security and Housing Stability: Women in Tulsa face connected challenges around jobs, education, and housing that make it harder to achieve financial stability. Supporting women means creating clear paths to good-paying careers, offering flexible and affordable training, and ensuring access to safe, stable housing.
  - ii. Unit 2: Mental Health and Trauma Recovery: Women in Tulsa face serious mental health and safety challenges connected to trauma, violence, and lack of access to resources, often starting early in life and continuing over time. Supporting women's wellbeing requires trauma-informed care, safe housing, and coordinated community support that helps women heal and rebuild stable lives.
  - iii. Unit 3: Health, Safety, and Empowerment: Women in Tulsa face connected challenges around safety, healthcare access, and economic opportunity that limit their ability to make choices and feel secure in daily life. True empowerment requires safe communities, accessible and fair healthcare, and systems that support women's autonomy at home, at work, and in society.
  - iv. Wholistic Summary: Women in Tulsa face gaps in access to safety, healthcare access, and economic opportunity that limit their ability to make choices and feel secure in daily life. True empowerment requires safe communities, affordable housing, accessible and fair healthcare, and systems that support women's autonomy at home, at work, and in society.
- c. The commission proceeded to discuss the next agenda item and returned to voting to approve the report later in the meeting.

**V. Discuss and Possibly Vote to Approve 2026 Focus**

- a. Conversation across themes came back to basic levels on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Addressing root causes and foundational elements of physiological and safety needs, not just symptoms.



- b. Tie into Mayor’s priorities: ending homelessness, economic opportunity, public safety, and affordable housing
- c. Chairwoman Latta posed discussion questions:
  - i. What are your reactions to the themes? What connections do you see to the mayor’s priorities?
  - ii. Based on what we’ve learned throughout the units of inquiry, is there a clear area of focus for 2026?
  - iii. What remaining questions do you have?
- d. Commission Discussion
  - i. Commissioner Jackson recommended focusing on safety. Safety ties in human trafficking, health, and connects to Mayor’s priorities. Will need to find a small slice that has something tangible that TWC can do.
  - ii. Commissioner Bent: Discussed housing and homelessness, which impacts safety. Unhoused individuals have safety worries, as well as people around them. Touched on the specifics of being a woman who is unhoused, generational patterns, vulnerability to sexual violence and trauma as an unhoused girl or woman.
    - 1. Chairwoman Latta wondering if the connection between housing and safety could focused on safety as housing.
  - iii. Commissioner Edwards spoke about economic safety, such as fear of buying a house for the first time even though homeownership can be the key to further economic security.
  - iv. Chairwoman Latta noted the commission could form committees that take on different facets of safety. Vice Chair Neary noted she likes bringing a committee structure to the commission.
  - v. Commissioner Edwards noted the importance of addressing physical safety, especially considering Oklahoma’s high domestic violence rates. Can look at best practices in other places such as the registry of domestic violence offenders in Tennessee.
  - vi. Chairwoman Latta noted there is a theme of safety as the area of focus.
  - vii. Chairwoman Latta entertained a motion to approve safety as TWC’s 2026 area of focus.
    - 1. Commissioner Myers Morgan made a motion, Commissioner Bent seconded.
      - a. Aye: 11, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
    - 2. Motion carried, safety was approved as TWC’s 2026 area of focus.

**VI. 2025 Units of Inquiry: Debrief and Vote to Approve Report**

- a. Chairwoman Latta returned to voting to approve the Units of Inquiry Report.
- b. Encouraged commissioners to not let this sit on a shelf and gather dust, can be used during legislative session and in discussions within the city.
- c. Chairwoman Latta entertained a motion to approve the Units of Inquiry Report.
  - i. Commissioner Palacios made a motion, Vice Chair Neary seconded.



1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0

ii. Motion carried, Units of Inquiry Report approved.

**VII. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

a. Childcare Access at Critical Level in Oklahoma

i. Chairwoman Latta shared that there are critical issues for childcare and DHS funding pauses on school-aged childcare subsidies. Distributed a policy brief (Appendix 1) to commissioners.

ii. Commissioner Palacios shared partial funding has been made available that will help stabilize childcare for children ages 6 – 8.

iii. Chairwoman Latta noted the fragility of federal funding, more state-level funding would help stabilize.

b. Pinnacle Awards Honorees Announcement

i. Reminded commissioners to rsvp for next week's press conference announcing the Pinnacle Awards honorees.

ii. Save the date for the event: March 27<sup>th</sup>

iii. New location: Marriot Southern Hills

**VIII. Old Business** – no old business

**IX. New Business** – no new business

**X. Announcements / Public Comments**

a. Tulsa Asia Fest on Saturday, January 31 at Arvest Convention Center, hosted by Asian Affairs Commission

b. Equality Dialogues for nonprofit leaders on Tuesday, January 20, hosted by the Department of Resilience and Equity

c. Commissioner Braddick: Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Human Trafficking Awareness Summit January 30 & 31 from 9 – 4 at Legacy Plaza

**XI. Adjournment**

a. Chairwoman Latta entertained a motion to adjourn.

i. Commissioner Jackson made a motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded.

1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0

ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.