



Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | March 12, 2026 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Fatima Linares, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Mark Ohnesorge, Diana Pennington

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Gomez, Jackiez Gonzalez, Jacob Parra, Amanda Peregrina, Angelica Reina

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Richard Gonzales

I. Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Chavez called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Vice Chair Chavez entertained a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Bejarano motioned, and Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1 (Commissioner Martinez Herrera)
 - ii. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Recap of Quarterly Title V Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting with Mayor Nichols
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez shared it was incredible to hear about activities of other Title V Commissions and make connections. One conversation led to requesting attendance data on Tulsa Public Schools and Union Public Schools to better understand how immigration issues are affecting student attendance.
- b. Reminder of Commissioner Commitments
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez reminded commissioners of attendance requirements, and to inform Lexi and Chairwoman Gonzalez when you will be absent. Trying to inspire engagement and impact for GTAHLAC.

IV. Guest Speaker: Jaymie Collum, Tulsa Municipal Court

- a. Jaymie Collum, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Angel Bobadilla presented.
- b. Tulsa Municipal Court's (TMC) Mission: To provide for the fair, impartial and efficient administration of justice in an atmosphere that promotes public trust and confidence in our justice system.
- c. Add on docket allows anyone who has missed their court date, have a ticket to contest, have a future court date but want to come earlier, or are showing compliance on correctable tickets to be added on any day the court is in regular session (with a few exceptions).



- d. Municipal Court Programs:
 - i. Night Court – Evening docket on Thursdays from 4 – 7 pm, have a free Spanish interpreter, has served 3,944 from September 2023 to August 2025.
 - ii. Special Services Court – Tailored judicial approach that addresses underlying causes.
 - iii. Court Advocate and Court Navigation Program – Assist citizens, partnership with Family and Children’s Services and JusticeLink.
 - iv. Driver’s License Reinstatement – Places a Service Oklahoma Liaison in an accessible area of the courthouse. Tulsa is the only court in Oklahoma that has this service within the courthouse.
 - v. Transportation Assistance Program – Offer bus passes to and from court obligations.
 - vi. Cost Compliance – Residents can set up payment plans or extend payment plans. Partnership with Financial Empowerment Center enables individuals to lower or eliminate fees and fines.
 - vii. Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) – On-site counselor Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 – 12. Those who attend three FEC counseling sessions receive a \$250 fine reduction and \$100 for every subsequent session.
 - viii. Language Access – Offer any language for interpretation.
- e. Community Outreach: TMC wants to build trust in the community to overcome fear of coming to court. Staff appreciate invites to attend events, create partnerships to bring in resources, and translate outreach materials.
- f. Internship Program: Partnership with Tulsa Public Schools, Jenks, and Union that enables students to learn how the courthouse works.
- g. Collaboration Opportunities:
 - i. Invite to events and community meetings
 - ii. Spread awareness of programs
 - iii. Hear concerns that community may have regarding appearing in court
 - iv. Encourage students to reach out for internships
- h. Language Access Policy at the City of Tulsa. TMC commonly interprets Spanish, Zomi, Burmese, Marshallese, ASL, and Romanian. Can call in advance to schedule interpreter or if they request day of can be rescheduled to ensure an interpreter is present.
- i. Commission Discussion
 - i. Commissioner Ariza: Is FEC offered in Spanish? Jaymie: Yes, FEC has multilingual councilors.
 - ii. Commissioner Ariza gave a shout out to TMC for the work they do to be welcoming.
 - iii. Vice Chair Chavez: Where does funding for TMC programs come from? Jaymie: Will have to refer to the program manager for the full answers, but some includes ARPA funds. Many programs are still pretty new.
 - iv. Vice Chair Chavez noted TMC could present to the Council for Safe Neighborhoods.

V. Guest Speaker: Kennedy Dixon, City of Tulsa Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth

- a. Kennedy Dixon is the Program Assistant and Local Government Manager to the Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth (OFE).



- b. OFE focuses on city-led, community-driven initiatives that further financial empowerment, wealth building, access to banking, and legacy and asset protection.
- c. Initiatives: Financial Empowerment Center (FEC), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), and Bank On
 - i. FEC: Free one-on-one financial counseling to everyone who lives, works, and plays in Tulsa.
 - 1. Two main locations: 21st& Yale (Goodwill), 16th & Sheridan (Tulsa Responds).
 - 2. Certified councilors provide individualized financial counseling.
 - 3. Have councilors who have Spanish as their first language.
 - 4. Provide financial wellness assessment on first session. Counseling is tailored to your financial goals.
 - ii. VITA: Free tax filing for low to moderate income households. Ensure Tulsans obtain all eligible tax credits, including EITC and Child Tax Credits
 - iii. Bank On: Partnering with 15 financial institutions offering low or no-fee, second-chance checking products
 - 1. 50% of Tulsans are considered Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed (ALICE), and this helps provide banking services to them.
 - 2. Also have low access to banking institutions, leading to people being under or unbanked.
- d. FEC outcomes achieved to date: 2,828
 - i. 13% have increased credit scores of 35+ points
 - ii. 9% have increased emergency savings
 - iii. \$1,572,619 savings increased
 - iv. \$3,715,296 in non-mortgage debt reduced
- e. 13.76% of FEC clients are Hispanic/Latinx
- f. Municipal Court partnership has resulted in \$67,383 of fines forgiven from 2023-2025. Able to help people exit the judicial cycle of poverty.
- g. Legacy Planning offers power of attorney, last will & testament, living will, and HIPAA authorization.
 - i. Clients don't have to be at retirement age to access.
 - ii. 774 residents have utilized these services from launch in October 2025 (about 10% of clients).
 - iii. Tangled title assistance coming soon in partnership with local legal assistance organizations.
- h. Commission Discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Martinez Herrera: Do clients have to have social security number to utilize legacy planning services? Kennedy: A social security number is not required. The FEC asks for clients to be over 18, and while more information is helpful they can also use a Tax ID or EIN. Also don't have to do a credit pull if clients don't want to.
 - ii. Commissioner Lozano-Alvarez: Do you do group sessions? Kennedy: Yes, OFE can do group sessions for any services. People can come in as a family.



- i. Commissioner Bejarano exited the meeting at 6:07 pm.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez reported that the discussion focused on meeting commitments, attendance, committee participation. Referred to Chairwoman Gonzalez's three goals for the year in Feb minutes.
 - ii. Reached out to commissioners with lagging attendance to re-engage or give opportunity to bow out.
 - iii. Committees submitted one pagers synthesizing their committee's focus.
 - 1. Vice Chair Chavez encouraged commissioners to select a committee before leaving today if they are not already on one.
- b. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Linares shared updates about the Tomás River Awards Ceremony (May 14). The committee received 107 submissions for awardees.
 - ii. The committee currently has four members, three commissioners and one community member. They are open to new members, as they can always use more help especially on the day of the Awards Ceremony.
- c. Community Advocacy Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez shared an update in Chairwoman Gonzalez's absence.
 - ii. The committee didn't meet this month. They have three commissioners involved.
 - iii. Current focus is distributing the 4th Amendment Worksites Playbook.
- d. Public Safety Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Chavez celebrated that the committee had 100% attendance at the March meeting. There are two commissioners and three GTAHLAC liaisons on the committee as well as staff from City of Tulsa and Tulsa Health Department. The committee is working on proposed bylaws revisions to include health in the committee's scope.
 - ii. The Tulsa Fire Department hosted a seatbelt workshop with Safe Kids, including a Spanish language car seat installation event. Tulsans can take a class to receive a free car seat. Thirteen families came and eleven seats were distributed.
 - iii. Tulsa Police Department hosted a Women in Policing event. 18 attended and three applied same day. The next Fraternal Order of Police meeting might discuss language stipends.
 - iv. EMS Week Celebration at Tulsa Zoo on May 17 from noon – 4 pm, free to public. will have flyers in early April will include community resource fair
 - v. The Tulsa County Sheriff's Office has a new liaison: Richard Gonzales
 - vi. Tulsa Health Department is currently focused on hepatitis and STD screenings. They are partnering with UMA Tulsa on a hepatitis awareness event that will have interpreters (volunteers needed).
 - vii. Commissioner Ariza volunteered to join the committee.
- e. Immigration Committee
 - i. Commissioner Ariza shared that the committee will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. There are currently two commissioners and one community member involved.



- ii. In the last meeting, attendees talked about identifying attorneys who would help pro bono with habeas corpus cases for those detained by ICE.
- iii. A guest speaker talked about their work accompanying individuals to their immigration appointments to help make them more comfortable. This also means someone will know right away and can inform family if the individual is detained by ICE at their appointment.
- iv. Discussed having GTAHLAC write a letter to the governor advocating for safety of all residents.
- f. Business Engagement Committee
 - i. As this is a newly formed committee, they are still working to define their purpose and scope. More to come in April.
 - ii. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez remarked that there is a lack of business incentives in east Tulsa.
 - 1. Commissioner Martinez Herrera shared there are initiatives through Tulsa Global District to have grants available to business owners. The downside is people who privately own buildings add obstacles because they need their share of the profit.
 - iii. Commissioner Martinez Herrera volunteered to join the committee.

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Lexi reminded commissioners the Title V and Beyond Apology Commissions Retreat will be on Friday, July 24. Last chance to provide input on topics presented.
- b. Lexi attended the March Immigration Committee meeting and they asked if it would be possible to have parks add signage in Spanish. Lexi received guidance to receive recommendations of top three parks GTAHLAC would want to start with.
- c. Sign up for the fall cohort of Neighborhood Academy.
- d. Vice Chair Chavez attended the Destination District Retreat and learned about several City resources.
- e. Commissioner Martinez Herrera exited at 6:35 pm. The Commission was no longer at quorum.
- f. Vice Chair Chavez encouraged commissioners to attend neighborhood and city council meetings.
- g. TPD is opening their 4th patrol division encompassing Downtown, Cherry Street, Gathering Place, and Gilcrease.
- h. District 6 has a challenge with unlawful weapons discharge around the holidays.

X. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Chavez adjourned the meeting at 6:38 pm.