



## Human Rights Commission

Regular Meeting | March 16, 2026 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Casey Bakhsh, Ana Barros, Whitney Cipolla, Dezeray Edwards, Drew France, Parisa Pilehvar, Joyce Roberts, Joshua Starks, Andrea Walker, Dave Walker

Commissioners Absent: Larissa McNeil, Anthony Meadows, Katie Eller Murray, Amanda Peregrina, Tamecca Rogers

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

a. Chairman France called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

#### II. **Compassionate Tulsa: Presentation of the Sherri Tapp Lifetime of Compassion Award to Rev. Chris Moore**

a. Dr. Gary Peluso, Compassionate Tulsa Chair, presented the Sherri Tapp Lifetime of Compassion Award to Reverend Chris Moore.

#### III. **Approve Meeting Minutes**

a. Chairman France entertained a motion to approve the February meeting minutes.

i. Commissioner Cipolla made a motion, Commissioner Barros seconded.

1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0

a. Commissioner Edwards was not yet present in the meeting.

ii. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved.

#### IV. **Chair / Vice Chair Report**

a. Chairman France recapped the Title V Commissions Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting with Mayor Nichols. He appreciated hearing other commissions talk about their work, and the meeting was uplifting and engaging.

i. The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission (GTAHLAC) published the 4th Amendment Worksites Playbook and hope they will present it in April's HRC meeting.

ii. Mayor Nichols mentioned possible opportunity to engage Black Tech Street (and Microsoft partnership) for HRC's goal of improving access to the Department of Resilience and Equity's (DRE) resources. Chairman France appreciated Mayor Nichols's interest in HRC's work.

b. Chairman France emailed all commissioners this morning to schedule one on one meetings for those who have time and are interested. Want to hear everyone's goals for HRC, ideas for improvement, and potential guests and topics to learn from.

c. Commissioner Edwards arrived at 3:42 pm.



- d. Vice Chair Rogers, Chairman France, and Lexi met to discuss the year ahead. Will create a committee engagement grid to gauge if the right commissioners are on the right committees.
- e. Humanitarian of the Year Award nominations are upcoming, will intentionally ask other Title V Commissions to nominate.

**V. Commissioner Pilehvar: HRC Goal #2 Update – Increase diverse representation and equitable recruitment practices across City of Tulsa ABCs**

- a. Commissioner Pilehvar noted that the drafted memo includes updated data from February, including 310 commissioners (previous data included 290).
- b. Reached out to Title V Commission liaisons to understand which parts of the data might be most relevant for each commission to support their community to get involved with ABCs.
- c. The Office of the Auditor’s ABC audit has narrowed its focus to include orientation and onboarding of ABC leaders, liaisons, and new members. Commissioner Pilehvar will continue to be in conversation with the Deputy City Auditor, Dr. Mike Stout.
- d. Chairman France reflected that there needs to be a firm call for action in the memo.
  - i. Commissioners Barros, Bakhsh, Edwards, and Pilehvar discussed what call for action could or should be added to the memo as well as different organizations and associations to work with to build pipelines of new ABC members.
  - ii. Commissioner Bakhsh if the data includes how many seats are currently open on ABCs; Commissioner Edwards asked if the data includes how long people have been on commissions.
  - iii. Commissioner Cipolla suggested possible next steps, including mapping open seats alongside meeting cadence and eligibility requirements. Commissioner Bakhsh noted that HRC members could have ideas and suggestions for their own district.
  - iv. Commissioner Starks suggested HRC can also offer to attend town halls or other district events to help raise awareness of the ABCs.
  - v. Proposed edit to last paragraph of the memo: “We look forward to partnering and ideating around next steps to address this data, including but not limited to presenting at a City Council Committee meeting or at district town hall meetings.”

**VI. Vote to Approve Goal #2 Memo and Submit to Mayor’s Office and City Council**

- a. Chairman France entertained a motion to approve the memo with one edit.
  - i. Commissioner Andrea Walker made a motion, Commissioner Starks seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, memo approved with one edit.

**VII. Chairman France Appoints New Special Committee Chair for HRC Goal #1**

- a. Chairman France appointed Commissioner Eller Murray as the new Special Committee Chair aligned with Human Rights Commission Goal #1.

**VIII. Chairman France: HRC Goal #1 Update – Improve access to the City of Tulsa Department of Resilience and Equity’s resources**

- a. Chairman France turned the floor over to Commissioner Roberts. Distributed a peer city comparison document for human rights complaints filing processes.



- b. Commissioner Roberts noted clear patterns in other cities, including more modernized technology systems that allow residents to submit and track complaints online. Most cities have streamlined categories of complaints and clear explanations for each to reduce confusion for residents.
- c. Current challenges in Tulsa include heavily reliance on the City Clerk's office, no online submission or tracking platform, limited accessibility for residents, particularly those with disabilities, confusion around complaint categories, lack of public awareness, and limited internal capacity to maintain current manual process.
- d. La Kendra is thankful for the support of HRC and being an additional voice to advocate for change in the human rights complaints work.
- e. Commissioner Edwards asked if there are additional challenges La Kendra comes across that HRC can advocate for, and La Kendra reinforced that the path HRC is on now is productive.
- f. Chairman France reflected on how difficult it can be to advocate from the inside, can be helpful for HRC to advocate from the outside in. Next step will be to determine order of changes and secure buy-in.

**IX. Committee, Liaison, and Title V Commissions Calls for Action**

- a. Commissioner Starks: Just got back from DC working on national priorities for veterans such as PTSD care through the VA.

**X. Old Business – no old business**

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

**XII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Public Comment
  - i. Chriss Chavez said hello from GTAHLAC and that GTAHLAC looks forward to presenting the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites Playbook.

**XIII. Adjournment**

- a. Chairman France entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Pilehvar made a motion, Commissioner Barros seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.