

# Minutes

## Human Relations Commission

### June 13, 2023

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m., held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282 & Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: (480) 498-8745, United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 762 995 762#

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Hugo Tapia, Chair  
Peggy Simmons, Vice-Chair  
Tom Brown  
Pamela Chan  
Melissa Farling  
Rabbanni FurQuaan  
Candyce Lindsay  
David Reynolds

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Kate Vawter  
William Ortega

**City Staff Present:**

Dr. Velicia McMillan Humes, Chief Diversity Officer  
Ginny Belousek, Equity & Inclusion Manager  
Jamie Rodriguez, Executive Assistant to CMO

**Guests**

None

**Call to Order**

Chair Tapia called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

None

**Agenda Item 2 – HRC/Retreat Belonging Dialogues Pilot Debrief**

The Human Relations Commission participated in a Belonging Dialogue Retreat on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Chair Tapia began the discussion by asking Commissioners to provide feedback concerning their experience during the retreat.

The Belonging Dialogues was developed to provide residents an opportunity to participate in 6 – 1.5-hour sessions. The sessions of dialogues were modified for Commissioners' participation during the five (5) hour retreat. These sessions were designed to:

- Build on the history of Diversity Dialogues in structure and the intention to build relationships across residents using the Equity in Action Framework.
- Encourage residents to increase their individual and collective engagement to positively impact their quality of life.

This would be measured by increased involvement in city council meetings, boards and commissions, and ability to organize at a neighborhood and City level to respond to inequities and inform decisions that have the possibility of creating equity.

Commissioners shared that the retreat was valuable because it gave them an opportunity to increase their sense of common ground, as a Commission, to carry out its assigned duties. They also felt the information was helpful and could be used as they move forward as a Commission. However, it was noted that the modified course they participated in was not aligned to the proposal presented during the HRC meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. As such, they believed they did not experience what a resident would, who would participate in the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lindsay, to bring the Belongings Dialogue, that was proposed and facilitated and by Dr. Gutierrez on May 13 to a vote for recommendation by a yes or no vote from commissioners. Second by Commissioner Brown. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Tapia, Commissioners Brown, Chan, Farling, FurQuaan, Lindsay, and Rojas. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Simmons and Reynolds.

A second motion was made by Commissioner Brown, to not recommend the Belongings Dialogue. A yes vote would deny the program and a no vote would be in favor of the Belongings Dialogue. Second by Chair Tapia. Ayes 6-1 Nay. Ayes: Chair Tapia, Commissioners Brown, Chan, Farling, FurQuaan, Lindsay. Nays: None: Commissioner Rojas Abstained. Absent: Commissioner Simmons and Reynolds.

### **Agenda Item 3 – 2024 MLK Discussion and Selection of Working Group**

Commissioners Rabbanni Furqaan, Joe Rojas and Candyce Lindsay volunteered to be the working group for the MLK event that will take place in January. This group will select a speaker, read nominations, and select the winners. No exact date has been determined.

### **Agenda Item 4 – General Plan 2050**

Tabled

### **Agenda Item 5 – Announcements**

- Dr. Humes announced to the Commission that the DEI Coordinator has been hired and will begin on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Brown informed the Commission there is a Public Housing meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Humes announce Juneteenth is Saturday at 11am. After the speeches and the awards, there will be a reading in the library with the children. Tempe leadership will be reading with the kids.
  - There is also a Juneteenth event in downtown Tempe.
- Commissioner FurQaan announced he is serving on Tempe Community Council and they are looking for nominations for the Don Carlos Awards in September. Seeking nominations for Community Organization, Community Company that are heavy on philanthropy. Also, a Volunteer award, Don Carlos Humanitarian award and Young Humanitarian award. Nomination cycle will be wrapping up soon. Commissioner will assist in any questions the group may have.
- Commissioner Farling announced how Tempe is dementia friendly and will be expanding services for people with memory loss, dementia, BIPOC. Commissioner asked if someone can speak about the related subjects. Also, if they can speak upon mentally ill and the elderly who are mentally ill needing housing. Farling is interested to see how the programs are developed. Chair Tapia and Dr. Humes will contact Social Services and the individual who developed the program. Dr. Humes will see when they are available.
- Dr. Humes announced she was appointed by the Mayor to sit on the TCC Board as a Liaison. First meeting was last week.
- Dr. Humes also announced the Interim City Manager, Rosa Inchausti.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Future Agenda Items**

Chair Tapia let the Commission know that there were no items discussed during the meeting and he opened the floor to suggestions for the August meeting. The following were recommended: Discuss details for May retreat. Chair Tapia let the Commission know that if they have any additional items, they would like added to future agendas, they should contact Velicia McMillan Humes or Jamie Rodriguez.

**Agenda Item 7 – Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Date – August 8, 2023**

Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

**Motion made by Commissioner Candyce Lindsay to adjourn the meeting**

**Second by Commissioner Rojas**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

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Prepared by: Jamie Rodriguez

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Reviewed by: Velicia McMillan Humes