

Minutes of the Human Rights Commission Meeting

Held January 15, 2026, in the 4th Floor Conference Room – City Hall

5:00 p.m.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Attendance</u>	<u>End of Current Term of Office</u>
<i>Members Present:</i>		
Dana Stickley	(21 – 3)	9/18/26
Petronilla Sylvester	(19 – 2)	1/9/26
Brandon Johnson	(4 – 0)	10/8/28
Zach Ellis	(4 – 0)	10/8/26
Erik McGuire	(21 – 3)	10/8/26

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jason Soper, City Attorney

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Call to Order.

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Johnson at 5:05 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call/Attendance.

All members present. There is a quorum.

Agenda Item #3 and #4: Approval of Meeting Agenda and October Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as published by McGuire. Seconded by Ellis. Passed unanimously.

One edit was requested by Sylvester for the December minutes. Agenda Item #7e, in the second paragraph, 2nd line, it was requested that the word “Awareness” be inserted between “Health” and “month”. A motion was made to accept the December minutes as amended by Ellis. Seconded by Stickley. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: Old Business.

No old business to take up.

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CITY CLERK

Agenda Item #6: Reports

a. Chairperson and Vice Chair Report

Johnson stated there was nothing to report for this meeting.

b. Commissioner Reports.

Johnson: Wanted to lock down the months and potential programs. Stated Human Trafficking Prevention Month is January...put something out on social media. List of resources?

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph (Sylvester)
- Sisters of Solace (McGuire)
- YWCA provides awareness to an extent and shelter (Ellis)
- St. Joseph Police Department

McGuire: The HRC has 743 followers on Facebook. Sylvester suggested posting about some of the legislative issues that are coming up. McGuire also suggested a quarterly newsletter that would give updates on events, etc. He offered to draft the first one. Would try to get it delivered to multiple organizations around the city (YWCA, Interfaith Alliance, etc.) Maybe would look into getting a page in the next city magazine?

Stickley: Nothing to report.

Ellis: Has been working on lots of items for February through the YWCA. Has recently been working with the younger crowd in the schools dealing with teen dating violence awareness. A conversation was held about what he potentially could do with our Facebook, branding, and AI.

Sylvester: The HRC needed to think of other ways to reach people than just Facebook. A discussion involving Instagram was held as a way to reach younger people. A reminder that Mental Health Awareness month is May.

Agenda Item #7: New Business

a. Review of Charges for the Commission

- i) Goal: Deliver high-quality, human rights-focused events monthly or semi-monthly.**

The goal has been decided to be a special program every-other month.

- ii) Goal: Formalize and strengthen community partnerships through active engagement.**

Nothing at this time.

b. Finalize anticipated events for 2026

The HRC went to the “2026 Human Rights Commission Event Planning” calendar at this time to discuss events through the month of June 2006. Please refer to the attached calendar.

c. Goals for Q1 2026

See attached calendar.

As additional new business, Sylvester addressed the fact that she has termed out. A discussing was held concerning that.

Agenda Item #8: Open Floor for Public Comment.

Two (2) people were present from the public. One had lived in St. Joseph for 2 ½ years and was attending MWSU. The other worked for the school district. Johnson asked them their thoughts on what they heard this evening. They liked our discussions of each month and the themes, and would like to see if the HRC could get involved with the Tuesday night talks at the Pony Express, events at the Senior Center and the Glore Museum. They were thanked for coming and for their input.

Agenda Item #9: Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m. upon a motion to adjourn made by Stickleby and seconded by Sylvester.

The next Human Rights Commission meeting will be held at City Hall on Thursday, February 19, 2026, from 5 - 6 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted.

City Attorney Jason Soper

2026 Human Rights Commission Event Planning

January 2026

- Poverty in America Awareness Month

- Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026

- Black History Month

February 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

- Teen Dating Violence Awareness

Ellis - the YWCA has talked

about an event

"In Your Shoes" program?

March 2026

- Women's History Month

March 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Developmental Disability

Awareness

2026 Human Rights Commission Event Planning

April 2026

- Celebrate Diversity Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Ellis will obtain a list of planned events

May 2026

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Jewish American Heritage Month

May 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sylvester: Work w/ Family Guidance - Extra credit for students? CEO's?

Stickley: Will contact Good Samaritan Center

June 2026

- LGBTQ+ Pride Month
- Caribbean American Heritage Month

June 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

June teenth - need to get the info. out!