

**City of Redlands  
Human Relations Commission  
Council Chambers, Civic Center  
35 Cajon Street, Redlands, CA 92373  
January 13, 2024  
6:00pm-8:30pm**

**Members Present:** Ken Ford, Julie Houston, Vanessa Aranda, Roop Kishor Goyal, Commissioner, Alicia Gyllenhammer, Gail Howard, Grace Emrick

Staff Liaison - Sarah Redinger

**A. Call to Order at 6:01pm: Attendance**

1. Commissioners present are noted above.

**B. Reading of Committee Mission and Purpose**

**C. Public Comment - None**

**D. Approval of the minutes from meeting on November 25, 2024**

1. Chairperson Ken Ford gave the motion to approve the minutes from the last HRC meeting on November 25, 2024 and Commissioner Houston seconded the motion. No discussion and unanimous vote by all HRC commissioners to pass the motion and approve the minutes.

**E. New Business**

**1. Nomination, discussion, and election of Human Relations Commission officers for 2025: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer**

- a. Commissioner Howard recommended Ken Ford as 2025 chairperson and second by Commissioner Goyal. Then, Commissioner Aranda recommended Commissioner Houston for chairperson and no second. Vote was made with Ken Ford becoming chairperson with Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Goyal, and Commissioner Gyllenhammer voting for. Motion passed with Ken Ford as chairperson of HRC 2025.
- b. Commissioner Aranda recommended Commissioner Houston for vice chairperson and unanimous vote to approve the motion for Commissioner Houston to be vice chairperson of HRC 2025.
- c. Commissioner Howard recommended Commissioner Aranda for secretary and unanimous vote to approve the motion for Commissioner Aranda to be secretary of HRC 2025.
- d. Chairperson Ford recommended Commissioner Gyllenhammer for treasurer and unanimous vote to approve the motion for Commissioner Gyllenhammer to be treasurer of HRC 2025.

- 2. Recommend for city council approval a Proclamation Condemning Persecution of Religious Minorities in Bangladesh. Determine if someone from HRC will be there to accept the proclamation.**
  - a. Discussed the proclamation and any changes required and contacting Pete Aguilar's office after the Redlands City Council carries out the proclamation. Commissioner Howard made the motion to accept and recommend to the city council the "Proclamation Condemning Persecution of Religious Minorities in Bangladesh." Chairperson Ford seconded the motion with no further discussion and motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Goyal will be present at the January 21, 2025 city council meeting to accept the proclamation.
- 3. Ken Ford report on December 2, 2024 meeting with City Manager**
  - a. Commissioner Ford, Commissioner Damsaz, and Staff Liaison Redinger met with the city manager on December 2, 2024. In addition to asking the city manager for direction on what the HRC can do, they discussed items #4-8 below and are awaiting the city manager's response.
- 4. Discuss the acquisition and order of business cards for Human Relations Commission commissioners**
  - a. The city manager will be checking in on this request.
- 5. Discuss the possibility of establishing a Human Relations Commission email address**
  - a. Chairperson Ford stated that the city manager shared that would not be approved. Commissioner Houston recommended an interface on HRC webpage on the City of Redlands website where the public could email the commissioners directly like the city council page with their emails.
- 6. Discuss the possibility of establishing a Human Relations Commission Instagram account**
  - a. Instagram account managed by the HRC was denied by the city manager.
- 7. Discuss purchase of Human Relations Commission-branded tablecloth for events**
  - a. During the December 2, 2024 meeting, the city manager shared that he would investigate and get back to Chairperson Ford.
- 8. Discuss direction from city manager on permissible spending of donated Human Relations Commission funds**
  - a. During the December 2, 2024 meeting, the city manager shared that he would investigate and get back to Chairperson Ford.
- 9. Discussion and possible action on the ceasing of printing Human Relations Commission agendas and minutes on paper**
  - a. Discussed "going green" and not printing paper agendas during HRC meetings. There was a unanimous vote to keep paper agendas.
- 10. Update from the Cultural Humility Subcommittee**
  - a. The subcommittee has met to discuss future goals, past events, proclamations that have already taken place, flag policies in other cities like City of Riverside, and uplifting organizations and other cultures.

- b. Further discussed a future proposal to the HRC to promote cultural diversity, learn who is doing what in our great community, and how to highlight such groups. Proposed groups like ANCA and the Northside Alliance to come and speak at the HRC meetings in 2025.
- c. Chairperson Ford shared possible ways that we could partner with such groups after learning more about them after their presentations.

**1. Discuss annual plan for 2025**

Chairperson Ford shared that he would be presenting the 2024 HRC year-end report at the city council meeting on February 18, 2025. He encouraged the commissioners to be present for the in-person meeting for the full report given to the city council.

**a. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and DEI Month**

- i. DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) was discussed to present opportunities to learn more with workshops in our community, i.e. Assembly Room at the Smiley Library where we could potentially put our funds towards. Discussed partnering with high school student clubs and learning more about their presence in the Redlands community.
- ii. Commissioner Houston suggested a list of community-wide events on the DEI website with a tab “Current Events”.

**b. Cultural competency workshops**

- i. Commissioner Aranda suggested using the existing Google doc to start a list of which organizations to present at our 2025 HRC meetings and workshops.
- ii. Commissioner Goyal recommended the first workshop on Hinduism.
- iii. Other organizations who could potentially present were Common Vision Coalition, Smiley Heritage Tours, BSU, Redlands for Palestine, etc. All agreed on 15-minute presentations that would include Q&A.
- iv. Student Commissioner Emrick shared the student voices she would recommend to come speak, including Environmental Club and Octagon Club.
- v. Proposed workshops on topics that would enhance cultural understanding and awareness. The HRC could invite University of Redlands speakers or professors to speak on these approved topics.
- vi. Commissioner Houston suggested a workshop on behavioral health and mental health, DEI month in April, or Hindu Heritage month in October. These workshops would be “Hosted by the Human Relations Commission” and potentially offer credit or community service hours (or both) to students who participate in these series of workshops in 2025.

**c. Public recognition of cultural holidays**

- i. Commissioner Houston circled back on the future proclamations and research with the Cultural Humility Subcommittee the

proclamations that the City of Redlands have already given out and what is still available to give.

**d. Sustainable equitable development**

- i. Commissioner Houston recommended ways for the HRC and the City of Redlands staff to work together on the City's DEI goals.
- ii. Commissioner Houston shared an example from the Northside Alliance taking the time to survey the Northside community with questions and suggested the same idea with Redlands citizens. Questions were asked "Does the Redlands community feel represented?"
- iii. Commissioner Aranda suggested translating the city council and commission meetings/agendas into other languages.
- iv. HRC will investigate making a recommendation to the City Council after researching these questions and suggestions.
- v. Commissioner Gyllenhammer asked Sarah Redinger, City Liaison how often the City of Redlands takes a community-wide survey and suggested adding a couple questions to survey ourselves about the representation questions or language barrier questions in the next city-wide survey.

**e. Health and Wellness Fair**

- i. Chairperson Ford will schedule for the March 10, 2025 HRC meeting a presentation of certificates of recognition for 2024 Health and Wellness Fair vendors.
- ii. Chairperson Ford suggested partnering with Loma Linda Medical Center after meeting with a motivated doctor who wanted to be involved with the 2025 HRC Health and Wellness Fair.
- iii. Commissioner Goyal suggested more dental chairs for dental checkups and optometrists and give eye exams.
- iv. It was suggested to find an outside/inside venue to host the Health and Wellness Fair.
- v. City Manager Duggan will be the one to approve this HRC-sponsored event, but Chairperson Ford suggested forming a Health and Wellness Fair subcommittee with Commissioner Gyllenhammer and Commissioner Goyal joining Chairperson Ford on the subcommittee.

**f. Run Around Redlands 5K**

- i. Commissioner Aranda described this to new commissioners as a walk through the northside of Redlands with presented history as there is the tale of two cities in Redlands.
- ii. Creation of a list of city events that occur throughout the year

**g. Discuss and draft, for City Council approval, a proclamation relating to Palestine.**

- i. 100 other cities have made a Proclamation relating to Palestine.
- ii. Commissioner Houston and Commissioner Aranda will research this with using the Proclamation of Bangladesh template that Sarah Redinger, City Liaison suggested (non-political).

- iii. Focus on the humanitarian side of the conflict.

**F. Old Business** – None.

**G. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- a. Continue discussion on Cultural Competency Workshops.
- b. Discuss possible future presentation on Hinduism.
- c. Continue discussion on Spanish and other language translation services.
- d. Recognition certificates for the Health and Wellness Fair vendors.
- e. Cultural Humility Subcommittee update.
- f. Updates from City Manager addressing all the “pending” items.
- g. Discuss May proclamation to be put on the agenda.
- h. A special meeting may be scheduled for February.

**H. Treasurer’s Report:**

**I. Staff Report:** None

**J. Council Report:** None

**K. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. The next regular meeting will be held March 10, 2025 at 6:30PM.