

City of Redlands
Human Relations Commission
Council Chambers, Civic Center
35 Cajon Street, Redlands, CA 92373
May 12, 2025
6:30 – 7:30 pm

Ken Ford, Chairperson, Gail Howard, Commissioner, Julie Houston, Commissioner, Roy George, Commissioner, Vanessa Aranda, Commissioner, Roya Damsaz, Commissioner, Roop Kishor Goyal, Commissioner, Alicia Gyllenhammer, Commissioner, Grace Emrick, Student Commissioner

Council Liaison – Mario Saucedo Staff Liaison – Sarah Redinger

A. Call to Order – Attendance

B. Reading of Committee Mission and Purpose

C. Public Comment

At this time, the Human Relations Commission will provide an opportunity for the public to address them on any subject, within the jurisdiction of the Human Relations Commission, which is not already scheduled on this agenda. However, any matter that requires action will be referred to staff for a report and possible action at a subsequent Human Relations Commission meeting. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

D. Approval of the Minutes from Meeting on March 10, 2025

E. New Business

1. Announcement of Human Relations Commissioner Damsaz's resignation from the Human Relations Commission, and discussion and possible action relating to reassignment of her duties.
2. Discussion and possible action regarding criteria for determining Human Relations Commission commissioner excused and unexcused absences.
3. Presentation of the final plan for the LGBTQ+ Pride Month panel discussion event scheduled for the June 4, 2025 Human Relations Commission special meeting. Discussion and possible action regarding formal approval of the event by the Human Relations Commission.
4. Discussion and possible action relating assigning the Cultural Humility Subcommittee to create a formal proposal to the City Council for a series of religious tolerance educational workshops.
5. Update from Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Planning and Implementation of Hinduism Presentation. Possible action to approve the event for submission to City Council.

F. Old Business

1. Update from Chairperson Ford, discussion, and possible action related to the presentation of letters of appreciation to business participants from the 2024 health fair.

G. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

H. Treasurer's Report

I. Staff Report

1. Update from Staff Liaison regarding City Council-planned diversity events in 2025.

J. Council Report - None

K. Adjournment

The next meeting will be a special meeting and will be held on June 4, 2025.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Goutam Dobey, of the Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department at (909) 798-7584 ext. 2. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II)

**Human Relations Commission
5/12/2024 Meeting**

Agenda Item E-3: Presentation of the final plan for the LGBTQ+ Pride Month panel discussion event scheduled for the June 4, 2025 Human Relations Commission special meeting. Discussion and possible action regarding formal approval of the event by the Human Relations Commission.

On behalf of the Human Relations Commission, subcommittee members Ken Ford, Grace Emrick and Roya Damsaz present the following proposal, to host an open to the public event at the City Hall on June 4th, 2025, to discuss the difficulties that certain minority groups in Redlands are facing, and to explore opportunities to create a safe and socially just environment for all. Specifically, this event would include a panel of members from various organizations that present and engage in safe and peaceful discussions regarding relevant social issues in Redlands. This panel will consist of up to 8 speakers that will conduct a panel discussion and Q&A.

Title: "LGBTQ Pride Month Panel"

Date: June 4, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm

Venue: Redlands City Council Chambers

Questions To Be Asked:

1. What significance does the celebration of pride month have regarding the recognition LGBTQA+ identifying individuals?
2. What are some issues that many members of the queer community in Redlands face today?
3. How can the community of Redlands recognize such issues and demonstrate inclusivity towards LGBTQA+ identifying residents?
4. What impact will these improvements in Redlands have on the overall movement for LGBTQA+ rights?
5. What message can the city of Redlands deliver to LGBTQA+ identifying individuals who have been subject to discrimination for their sexual orientation?*

*This question requires further discussion by Human Relations Commission commissioners during the 5/12/25 HRC meeting.

**Human Relations Commission
5/12/2024 Meeting**

Agenda Item E-4: Update from Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Planning and Implementation of Hinduism Presentation. Discussion. Possible action regarding Human Relations Commission approval of the event and submission of event description to the City Council for approval.

Please find below the proposal for a talk on understanding your Hindu neighbors. This is a project of the *Ad hoc Committee for Planning and Implementation of Hinduism Presentation* at the *Human Relations Commission* of the City of Redlands.

Title: "Hinduism in America-Understanding Your Neighbors"

Date: September 6, 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 3 pm

Venue: Contemporary Club, 173 S Eureka St, Redlands, CA 92373. This venue was chosen to make it easier for people to attend it because attending an event on a weekday evening is harder than on a weekend afternoon.

Synopsis:

Hinduism has been part of the fabric of America for over a century and today more than 3 million Hindus live in the US. Yet studies have shown that only one in five Americans even knows a Hindu-leading to widespread ignorance about this oldest of major world religions. In the City of Redlands, Hindus make up a vital part of our community and Hindus have made immense contributions to our society and culture in America.

Join this interactive session on the world's third largest faith, to get an understanding of what drives your Hindu neighbors and colleagues and what underpins some of the Hindu celebrations you see in public.

Speaker: Pushpita Prasad, Communications Director, COHNA

Cost: Speaker's hotel expenses estimated to be \$250.

Security: If deemed necessary by city protocol.