

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

Members Present: Chairperson Ken Ford, Treasurer Alicia Gyllenhammer, Secretary Vanessa Aranda, Commissioner Roya Damsaz, Commissioner Roop Goyal, Commissioner Roy George, Student Commissioner Grace Emrick.

Staff Liaison – Sarah Redinger

A. Call to Order: Attendance

1. Members present are listed above
2. Absences: Vice Chairperson Julie Houston, Commissioner Gail Howard. Both excused due to illness.

B. Reading of Committee Mission and Purpose

1. Read by Commissioner Gyllenhammer.

C. Public Comment - None

D. Approval of the Minutes from Meeting on April 7, 2025

1. Discussion of minutes and inclusion of specific time when certain members arrive and leave beyond the start and end time of the meeting. Commissioner George objected to Staff Liaison Redinger noting George's tardiness at the last meeting. George requested to have this procedure confirmed as appropriate protocol with City Manager before continuing the practice.
2. Approval of minutes with one abstention from Commissioner George.

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.
 - a. Chairperson Ford thanked Commissioner Damsaz for her time and effort during her service.
 - b. After discussion, Commissioner Damsaz stated that her last day on the Human Relations Commission would be today.
 - c. Commissioner Damsaz had been assigned to the LGBTQ+ Pride Month panel discussion subcommittee. The subcommittee will continue without her with only two members.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding criteria for determining Human Relations Commission commissioners' excused and unexcused absences.
 - a. The Redlands municipal code specifies that a commissioner may not be absent for more than three unexcused consecutive meetings per year. Despite discussion, no decision was made as to the definition of "unexcused."
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.
 - a. An amendment was made to Question 5 on the list of questions to be asked at the panel discussion. The amendment changed the question from "What message can the City of Redlands deliver..." to "What message can our panel members deliver...".
 - b. Motion to approve the event by Commissioner Emrick, seconded by Commissioner Gyllenhammer. Unanimous approval by the commission.
 - c. Clarification that a quorum of HRC members is required for the June 4, 2025 meeting to take place.
 - d. Discussion regarding marketing and publicity of the event. Must give city public information officer at least two weeks' notice with information.
4. Discussion and possible action related assigning the Cultural Humility Subcommittee to create a formal proposal to the City Council for a series of religious tolerance educational workshops.
 - a. First session proposed is "Hinduism in America: Understanding Your Neighbors." See agenda item E-5 for details.
 - b. Formal proposal for series to be presented at special HRC meeting on June 4, 2025.
 - c. Cultural Humility Subcommittee will submit proposal for religious tolerance educational workshops to Staff Liaison Redinger at minimum two weeks prior to June 4, 2025 special meeting.
5. Update from Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Planning and Implementation of Hinduism Presentation. Possible action to approve the event for submission to City Council.
 - a. A commissioner made the recommendation to reach out to Redlands Interfaith Council.
 - b. A commissioner made the recommendation to switch the title of the event to "Understanding Your Neighbor: Hinduism in America"
 - c. Event proposal will be voted on at June 4, 2025 Special Meeting along with religious tolerance educational workshop series proposal. This is so that the Hinduism event can be included as an example when the proposal is made to city council for approval of the religious tolerance educational workshop series.

- d. The tentative date for the “Understanding Your Neighbor: Hinduism in America” event is September 6, 2025 at 3pm. The event will last one hour.
- e. Cannot have more than four commissioners present at the Hinduism event, otherwise a quorum is established and it is considered a public meeting.

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.
 - a. This item will be rescheduled to be presented at July 14, 2025 Human Relations Commission meeting.

G. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. For June 4, 2025 special Human Relations Commission meeting, the proposal and possible approval of the religious tolerance series will be contingent on approval of the “Understanding Your Neighbor: Hinduism in America” proposal.
2. Commissioner Goyal requested that a statement on incidents in Kashmir on April 25, 2025 be made at the July 14, 2024 Human Relations Commission meeting. Staff Liaison Redinger clarified that due to the lack of nexus to Redlands residents, this would not be considered a business item.

H. Treasurer’s Report: None

I. Staff Report:

1. Update from Staff Liaison Redinger regarding City Council-planned diversity events in 2025. The only city-sponsored event planned at this time is for Juneteenth.

J. Council Report: None

K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm. The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2025 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm and will be a special meeting.