

**City of Redlands
Human Relations Commission
Special Meeting
Council Chambers, Civic Center
35 Cajon Street, Redlands, CA 92373
July 6, 2026
6:30pm**

Commissioners Present: Vanessa Aranda, Germaine Miles, Daniela Ramirez-Ponce, Emma Bernstein, Ken Ford, Erin Stempien, Louisa Amis

Staff Liaison Present – Sarah Redinger

A. Call to Order: Attendance

1. Members present are listed above.
2. Absences: None

B. Reading of Committee Mission and Purpose

1. Read by Commissioner Ramirez-Ponce.

C. Public Comment – None.

D. Approval of the Minutes from Meeting on June 8, 2026

1. The minutes were edited to correctly reflect that Commissioner Ford read the Committee Mission and Purpose at the June 8, 2026 meeting. Miles moved to approve the June 8th, 2026 meeting minutes, Ford seconded. Approval of meeting minutes passed unanimously.

E. New Business

1. Report from Chairperson Aranda on her meeting with Mayor Mario Saucedo regarding Human Relations Commission goals.
 - a. He would like the HRC to use this commission as a resource for the community, hosting dialogues and panels regarding race and discrimination. Aranda and Saucedo also discussed city growth over time. Aranda suggested a listening campaign and essay/art contest, and the Mayor was supportive.
2. Report from Event Cosponsor Ad Hoc Subcommittee and possible action regarding ideas for Human Relations Commission participation and promotion of upcoming City events.
 - a. Commissioner Ramirez-Ponce reported that the subcommittee identified one community event for each month of 2026. Ideas for events to cosponsor include: the Redlands Farmer's Market, YouthHope Day in the Park Car Show, Dinner in the Grove, Believe

Walk, Veterans Day Parade, Turkey Trot, YMCA Holiday Boutique and Pantry, Christmas Parade, or the New Year's Eve beach ball drop. It was discussed that the HRC could host a table at these events displaying information about national observances and information about the Human Relations Commission, its mission, and how residents can get involved. Chairperson Aranda proposed a motion for the HRC to support the Veterans Day Parade, YouthHope Car Show, and Believe Walk. Ramirez-Ponce called for a motion, Miles seconded. The motion is passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and possible action to create an ad hoc subcommittee to plan a Human Relations Commission-sponsored student essay and art contest.
 - a. Chairperson Aranda proposed possible action for the creation of an ad hoc subcommittee to plan an HRC-sponsored student essay along with an art contest. Discussion on whether it should be K-12 schools or through college, K-12 is decided with the choice of breaking it into separate elementary, middle, and high school levels. Discussion on judging being up to the Commissioners or if it could be opened up to the Redlands community. Discussion on ensuring both public and private schools have access to the contest. Chairperson Aranda calls a motion for the creation of an ad hoc Subcommittee to plan an HRC-sponsored student essay along with an art contest. Subcommittee members will be Ramirez-Ponce, Stepien, and Ford and the subcommittee will be in effect from July 7th, 2026 to February 7th, 2027. Ramirez-Ponce moves to approve, Ford seconds. The motion is passed unanimously. The subcommittee will make a presentation at the September 14, 2026 HRC meeting.
4. Discussion and possible action on creation of an ad hoc subcommittee to create a theme and a set of questions, schedule, and structure for community outreach listening campaign. This includes discussion and possible action on thematic dialogue panels for future Human Relations Commission meetings which may be included in the listening campaign subcommittee or a separate subcommittee.
 - a. Ramirez-Ponce proposed having a table at Redlands events with sticky notes or a public Google Form survey to allow for feedback from the community. Stepien proposed every commissioner come up with two to three questions relating to the mission statement to ask the community in place of implementing a subcommittee. Miles asked for every commissioner to also prepare one community group each person can reach out to with these questions and present them at the next Human Relations Commission meeting, and Aranda agreed.
 - b. Staff Liaison Redinger will look into whether commissioners can put a survey on their personal Instagram accounts to gather data. Redinger will also look into whether the commission can offer people a QR code

- to answer a survey, and have the City's Instagram page post the QR code.
- c. Stempien suggested that each commissioner take one item from the HRC mission statement (race, disability, sexual orientation, etc.) and come up with two or three questions for a survey to bring to the next meeting.
5. Discussion and possible action for the Human Relations Commission to host a table at the Redlands Saturday Morning Market once a month with three or less commission members working on a rotating basis.
 - a. Discussed that handouts to inform the community would need to be approved beforehand.
 - b. The HRC will hold on participating at the Morning Markets until the next meeting when graphics are approved. Ramirez-Ponce will provide a plan for table displays at the September HRC meeting.
 - c. The Saturday Morning Market attendances would not be under the purview of the Event Cosponsor Ad Hoc Subcommittee.
 6. Discussion and possible action to invite students from different Redlands high schools to a future Human Relations Commission meeting to give input on matters relating to fostering mutual respect and understanding with regard to race, religion, national origin, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or other minority affiliation.
 - a. There was discussion about inviting students to a future meeting to allow a panel for high school and college students to speak on matters relating to the mission statement. This would give an outlet for more student voices to be heard, ideally at a special meeting.
 - b. There was discussion about which schools to include at the panel but there was no consensus.
 - c. Chairperson Aranda moved to create an ad hoc subcommittee with an end date of no later than December 14th, 2026 consisting of members Aranda, Ramirez-Ponce, and Miles to plan a panel that gives a voice to high school all schools county, private, and public that fall within the boundaries of the Redlands Unified Map Jurisdiction and college students that live in Redlands about matters relating to the Human Relations Commission mission. Stempien moved to approve, Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 7. Discussion and possible action on an ad hoc subcommittee to create a publication with government resources and established local community resources related to Human Relations Commission goals, such as unity, cultural understanding, anti-racism, and anti-bigotry.
 - a. This item was tabled until the next Human relations Commission meeting in September.

F. Old Business: None

G. Treasurer's Report: None

H. Staff Report:

1. Report on the possibility of using existing City survey technology to run a Human Relations Commission community survey.
 - a. Staff Liaison Redinger stated that the A.K. Smiley Public Library has a previous survey structure that the HRC could use.

I. Commissioners' Reports:

1. Commissioner Ford –
 - a. He teaches youth basketball at the YMCA on Saturdays.
 - b. Resilient Communities at the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino exists to foster better relationships with non-profits.
 - c. On July 25, 2026 from 9am to noon at the Flores Community Center, there will be a free Repair Fair. Preregistration is encouraged.
 - d. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Union & 7th is having a Health and Wellness Fair. Commissioner Ford is meeting with their leadership to see if the Human Relations Commission can partner with them in the future.
2. Commissioner Ramirez-Ponce:
 - a. Recommends creating fundraising opportunities to support programs like the Japanese Cultural Center dance and kanji classes and making them more accessible to the public.
3. Chairperson Aranda:
 - a. The San Bernardino County Museum has a current exhibit on Chinese pioneers that ends at the end of the month.

J. Council Report: None

K. Adjournment

1. Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.
2. The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2026 at 6:30pm.