

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of the Human Relations Commission was held at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Feltner, Holycross, Keller, Major, Severt, Villalobos

Presiding Officer: Chairperson Sonia Holycross

Others Attending: City Staff

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:35 p.m. by the Chairperson's call to order.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Major, seconded by Mr. Severt, the October 23, 2024, minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

2024 REPORT: Upon motion of Mr. Severt, seconded by Mr. Keller, the 2024 Report to City Council was approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to this report.

INITIATIVES: The Commission members discussed the completed, ongoing, and future initiatives.

Ms. Holycross stated that the I.D.E.A. Troy has expressed interest in helping with the Festival of Nations and possibly with MLK day activities. However, considerable support from volunteers will be needed to organize both events. Ms. Holycross added that Juneteenth and MLK events are getting smaller, and the hope is to reignite all these events.

The Troy Foundation will start planning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training in 2025. Karen Townsend will conduct the training. Mr. Feltner stated that Honda hires a professional to do the training for their employees at various plants annually and that he would share that information with The Troy Foundation.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The Commission agreed to hold the next meeting on January 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Severt has announced his resignation from the Commission. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the HRC and wishes the Commission great success.

Mr. Feltner shared that he could not commit to the reappointment due to his busy work schedule and decided to go off the Commission at the end of his term. He stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on the Commission along with the Commissioners for four years. He said that people want change for good. He is grateful that he has been part of that change and looks forward to helping the Commission in a different way to ensure the Commission's effort to advise the Mayor regarding the issues in the community continues, as it is crucial to speak up about what is wrong to be able to fix it. Mr. Feltner also recommended to the Commission a book called *Upstream*, which is about upstream thinking and suggests identifying and solving the cause of an issue and not the symptoms.

Mr. Keller mentioned that he had heard from some community members that keeping political signs for an extended period creates an uncomfortable atmosphere and is not conducive to fostering community spirit. He noted that some cities have ordinances that require political signs to be removed shortly after elections, and he would like to advise the Mayor to consider adopting legislation requiring the removal of all political signs within three to five days following the conclusion of elections. Mr. Severt stated that such regulation may cause free speech issues. Ms. Hekate said she would relay the message to the City Director and Mayor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were provided.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.