

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of the Human Relations Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Villalobos, Major, Holycross

Presiding Officer: Chairperson Sonia Holycross

Others Attending: City Staff

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:20 p.m. by the Chairperson's call to order.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Ms. Holycross, seconded by Mr. Major, November 12, 2025, minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

NEW INITIATIVES:

Ms. Holycross, chair of the Beloved Community Planning Team, discussed the 2026 MLK Walk. The event was well-attended despite the weather and included multiple speakers as well as students presenting written work. Sharie Brown will head the Beloved Community Planning team next year.

Ms. Holycross discussed the recruitment of new HRC members by Mayor Oda. The Mayor is currently interviewing a potential new member.

Ms. Holycross also shared that Chris Manning, executive director of the Overfield Tavern Museum, approached her to work on expanding the African American History Map for Overfield's America-250 Walking Map program. Ms. Holycross will meet with Ms. Manning to work on this initiative and to discuss artifacts for the upcoming Juneteenth exhibit at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center.

The annual Juneteenth program will include a concert and month-long art display at the Hayner as well as the traditional Juneteenth celebration at McKaig & Race Park. The Hayner has received an America-250 grant to support Juneteenth programming. Ms. Holycross invited other commission members to attend the Juneteenth planning meetings.

Taryn Smith, Management Analyst, introduced herself to the Commission members. Taryn will send out potential meeting dates for upcoming meetings.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Holycross shared information about printed "red cards" distributed by Advocates for Basic Legal Equity. The cards provide language that advises residents on 5th Amendment rights pertaining to warrant searches by law enforcement or federal agents.

Police Chief Shawn McKinney reviewed the cards and stated his belief that the information is oversimplified and does not address certain searches which may be legal without a warrant. The Commission members decided not to pursue the distribution of these cards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.